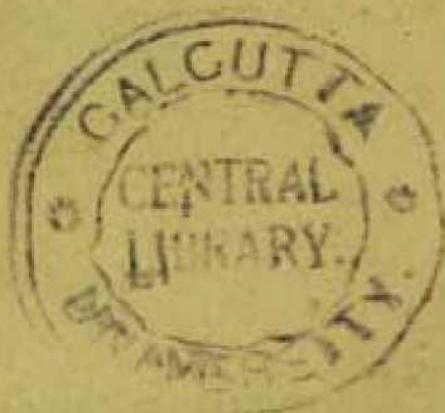




# INTERMEDIATE POETICAL SELECTIONS

(Reprint)



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# INTERMEDIATE POETICAL SELECTIONS

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William Shakespeare

MERCHANT OF VENICE

ACT IV, SCENE 1

*Venice. A court of justice*

[Enter the DUKE, the Magnificoes, ANTONIO,  
BASSANIO, SALANIO, SALARINO, GRATIANO  
and others]

Duke. What, is Antonio here?

Ant. Ready, so please your Grace.

Duke. I am sorry for thee: thou art come to  
answer

A stony adversary, an inhuman wretch  
Uncapable of pity, void and empty  
From any dram of mercy.

Ant. I have heard

Your Grace hath ta'en great pains to qualify  
His rigorous course; but since he stands obdurate,  
And that no lawful means can carry me  
Out of his envy's reach, I do oppose  
My patience to his fury, and am arm'd



To suffer, with a quietness of spirit,  
The very tyranny and rage of his.

*Duke.* Go one, and call the Jew into the court.

*Salar.* He's ready at the door: he comes, my lord.

[Enter SHYLOCK]

*Duke.* Make room, and let him stand before  
our face.

Shylock, the world thinks, and I think so too,  
That thou but lead'st this fashion of thy malice  
To the last hour of act; and then 'tis thought  
Thou'l show thy mercy and remorse more strange  
Than is thy strange apparent cruelty;  
And where thou now exact'st the penalty,  
Which is a pound of this poor merchant's flesh,  
Thou wilt not only loose the forfeiture,  
But, touch'd with human gentleness and love,  
Forgive a moiety of the principal;  
Glancing an eye of pity on his losses,  
That have of late so huddled on his back,  
Envoy to press a royal merchant down  
And pluck commiseration of his state  
From brassy bosoms and rough hearts of flint,  
From stubborn Turks and Tartars, never train'd  
To offices of tender courtesy.  
We all expect a gentle answer, Jew.

*Shy.* I have possess'd your Grace of what I  
purpose;

And by our holy Sabbath have I sworn  
To have the due and forfeit of my bond:  
If you deny it, let the danger light  
Upon your charter and your city's freedom.



You'll ask me, why I rather choose to have  
A weight of carrion flesh than to receive  
Three thousand ducats: I'll not answer that:  
But say it is my humour: is it answer'd?  
What if my house be troubled with a rat,  
And I be pleased to give ten thousand ducats  
To have it baned? What, are you answer'd yet?  
Some men there are love not a gaping pig;  
Some, that are mad if they behold a cat;  
And others, when the bag-pipe sings i' the nose,  
Cannot contain themselves; for affection,  
Mistress of passion, sways it to the mood  
Of what it likes or loathes. Now, for your answer:  
As there is no firm reason to be render'd,  
Why he cannot abide a gaping pig;  
Why he, a harmless necessary cat;  
Why he, a wauling bag-pipe; but of force  
Must yield to such inevitable shame  
As to offend, himself being offended;  
So can I give no reason, nor I will not,  
More than a lodged hate and a certain loathing  
I bear Antonio, that I follow thus  
A losing suit against him. Are you answer'd?

*Bass.* This is no answer, thou unfeeling man,  
To excuse the current of thy cruelty.

*Shy.* I am not bound to please thee with my  
answer,

*Bass.* Do all men kill the things they do not  
love?

*Shy.* Hates any man the thing he would not  
kill?

*Bass.* Every offence is not a hate at first.

*Shy.* What! wouldst thou have a serpent sting  
thee twice?



*Ant.* I pray you, think you question with the Jew:

You may as well go stand upon the beach  
And bid the main flood bate his usual height;  
You may as well use question with the wolf  
Why he hath made the ewe bleat for the lamb;  
You may as well forbid the mountain pines  
To wag their high tops, and to make no noise  
When they are fretted with the gusts of heaven;  
You may as well do anything most hard.  
As seek to soften that—than which what's harder?—  
His Jewish heart: therefore, I do beseech you,  
Make no more offers, use no further means,  
But with all brief and plain conveniency  
Let me have judgment and the Jew his will.

*Bass.* For thy three thousand ducats here is six.

*Shy.* If every ducat in six thousand ducats  
Were in six parts and every part a ducat,  
I would not draw them; I would have my bond.

Duke. How shalt thou hope for mercy,  
rendering none?

*Shy.* What judgment shall I dread, doing  
no wrong?

You have among you many a purchased slave,  
Which, like your asses and your dogs and mules,  
You use in abject and in slavish parts,  
Because you bought them: shall I say to you,  
Let them be free, marry them to your heirs?  
Why sweat they under burthens? let their beds  
Be made as soft as yours and let their palates  
Be season'd with such viands? You will answer:  
" The slaves are ours " : so do I answer you:  
The pound of flesh, which I demand of him,  
Is dearly bought; 'tis mine and I will have it.



If you deny me, fie upon your law!  
There is no force in the decrees of Venice.  
I stand for judgment: answer; shall I have it?

*Duke.* Upon my power I may dismiss this court,  
Unless Bellario, a learned doctor,  
Whom I have sent for to determine this,  
Come here to-day.

*Salar.* My lord, here stays without  
A messenger with letters from the doctor,  
New come from Padua.

*Duke.* Bring us the letters; call the messenger

*Bass.* Good cheer, Antonio! What, man, courage  
yet!

The Jew shall have my flesh, blood, bones, and all,  
Ere thou shalt lose for me one drop of blood.

*Ant.* I am a tainted wether of the flock,  
Meetest for death: the weakest kind of fruit  
Drops earliest to the ground; and so let me:  
You cannot better be employ'd, Bassanio,  
Than to live still and write mine epitaph.

[Enter NERISSA, dressed like a lawyer's clerk]

*Duke.* Came you from Padua, from Bellario?

*Ner.* From both, my lord. Bellario greets your  
Grace. [Presents a letter

*Bass.* Why dost thou whet thy knife so  
earnestly?

*Shy.* To cut the forfeiture from that bankrupt  
there.

*Gra.* Not on thy sole, but on thy soul, harsh Jew,  
Thou makest thy knife keen; but no metal can,  
No, not the hangman's axe, bear half the keenness  
Of thy sharp envy. Can no prayers pierce thee?



## 6 INTER. POETICAL SELECTIONS

*Shy.* No, none that thou hast wit enough to  
make.

*Gra.* O, be thou damn'd, inexecrable dog!  
And for thy life let justice be accused.  
Thou almost makest me waver in my faith  
To hold opinion with Pythagoras.  
That souls of animals infuse themselves  
Into the trunks of men: thy currish spirit  
Govern'd a wolf, who, hang'd for human slaughter,  
Even from the gallows did his fell soul fleet,  
And, whilst thou lay'st in thy unhallow'd dam,  
Infused itself in thee; for thy desires  
Are wolvish, bloody, starved and ravenous.

*Shy.* Till thou canst rail the seal from off my  
bond,  
Thou but offend'st thy lungs to speak so loud:  
Repair thy wit, good youth, or it will fall  
To cureless ruin. I stand here for law.

*Duke.* This letter from Bellario doth commend  
A young and learned doctor to our court.  
Where is he?

*Ner.* He attendeth here hard by,  
To know your answer, whether you'll admit him.

*Duke.* With all my heart. Some three or four  
of you  
Go give him courteous conduct to this place.  
Meantime, the court shall hear Bellario's letter.

*Clerk.* [Reads] Your Grace shall understand that  
at the receipt of your letter I am very sick: but in  
the instant that your messenger came, in loving visi-  
tation was with me a young doctor of Rome: his  
name is Balthasar. I acquainted him with the cause  
in controversy between the Jew and Antonio the



## WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

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merchant: we turned o'er many books together: he is furnished with my opinion; which, bettered with his own learning, the greatness whereof I cannot enough commend, comes with him, at my importunity, to fill up your Grace's request in my stead. I beseech you, let his lack of years be no impediment to let him lack a reverend estimation; for I never knew so young a body with so old a head. I leave him to your gracious acceptance, whose trial shall better publish his commendation.

*Duke.* You hear the learn'd Bellario, what he writes:

And here, I take it, is the doctor come.

[Enter PORTIA, dressed like a doctor of laws]

Give me your hand. Came you from old Bellario?

*Por.* I did, my lord.

*Duke.* You are welcome: take your place.  
Are you acquainted with the difference  
That holds this present question in the court?

*Por.* I am informed thoroughly of the cause.  
Which is the merchant here, and which the Jew?

*Duke.* Antonio and old Shylock, both stand  
forth.

*Por.* Is your name Shylock?

*Shy.* Shylock is my name.

*Por.* Of a strange nature is the suit you follow;  
Yet in such rule that the Venetian law  
Cannot impugn you as you do proceed.  
You stand within his danger, do you not?

*Ant.* Ay, so he says.

*Por.* Do you confess the bond?



*Ant.* I do.

*Por.* Then must the Jew be merciful.

*Shy.* On what compulsion must I? tell me that.

*Por.* The quality of mercy is not strain'd;  
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven  
Upon the place beneath; it is twice blest;  
It blesseth him that gives and him that takes:  
'Tis mightiest in the mightiest: it becomes  
The throned monarch better than his crown;  
His sceptre shows the force of temporal power,  
The attribute to awe and majesty,  
Wherein doth sit the dread and fear of kings;  
But mercy is above this sceptred sway;  
It is entroned in the hearts of kings,  
It is an attribute to God himself;  
And earthly power doth then show likest God's  
When mercy seasons justice. Therefore, Jew,  
Though justice be thy plea, consider this,  
That, in the course of justice, none of us  
Should see salvation: we do pray for mercy;  
And that same prayer doth teach us all to render  
The deeds of mercy. I have spoke thus much  
To mitigate the justice of thy plea,  
Which if thou follow, this strict court of Venice  
Must needs give sentence 'gainst the merchant there.

*Shy.* My deeds upon my head! I crave the law,  
The penalty and forfeit of my bond.

*Por.* Is he not able to discharge the money?

*Bass.* Yes, here I tender it for him in the court;  
Yea, twice the sum: if that will not suffice,  
I will be bound to pay it ten times o'er,  
On forfeit of my hands, my head, my heart:  
If this will not suffice, it must appear  
That malice bears down truth. And I beseech you,



## WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

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Wrest once the law to your authority:  
To do a great right, do a little wrong,  
And curb this cruel devil of his will.

*Por.* It must not be; there is no power in Venice  
Can alter a decree established:

'Twill be recorded for a precedent,  
And many an error by the same example  
Will rush into the state: it cannot be.

*Shy.* A Daniel come to judgment! yea, a  
Daniel!

O wise young judge, how I do honour thee!

*Por.* I pray you, let me look upon the bond.

*Shy.* Here 'tis, most reverend doctor, here it is.

*Por.* Shylock, there's thrice thy money offer'd  
thee.

*Shy.* An oath, an oath, I have an oath in  
heaven:

Shall I lay perjury upon my soul?

No, not for Venice.

*Por.* Why, this bond is forfeit;  
And lawfully by this the Jew may claim  
A pound of flesh, to be by him cut off  
Nearest the merchant's heart. Be merciful:  
Take thrice thy money; bid me tear the bond.

*Shy.* When it is paid according to the tenor.  
It doth appear you are a worthy judge;  
You know the law, your exposition  
Hath been most sound: I charge you by the law,  
Whereof you are a well-deserving pillar,  
Proceed to judgment: by my soul I swear  
There is no power in the tongue of man  
To alter me: I stay here on my bond.

*Ant.* Most heartily I do beseech the court  
To give the judgment.



10      INTER. POETICAL SELECTIONS

*Por.*

Why then, thus it is:

You must prepare your bosom for his knife.

*Shy.* O noble judge! O excellent young man!

*Por.* For the intent and purpose of the law  
Hath full relation to the penalty,  
Which here appeareth due upon the bond.

*Shy.* 'Tis very true: O wise and upright judge!  
How much more elder art thou than thy looks!

*Por.* Therefore lay bare your bosom.

*Shy.* Ay, "his breast":  
So says the bond: doth it not, noble judge?

"Nearest his heart": those are the very words.

*Por.* It is so. Are there balance here to weigh  
The flesh?

*Shy.* I have them ready.

*Por.* Have by some surgeon, Shylock, on your  
charge,

To stop his wounds, lest he do bleed to death.

*Shy.* Is it so nominated in the bond?

*Por.* It is not so express'd: but what of that?  
'Twere good you do so much for charity.

*Shy.* I cannot find it; 'tis not in the bond.

*Por.* You, merchant, have you anything to say?

*Ant.* But little: I am arm'd and well prepared.  
Give me your hand, Bassanio: fare you well!  
Grieve not that I am fallen to this for you:  
For herein Fortune shows herself more kind  
Than is her custom: it is still her use  
To let the wretched man outlive his wealth..

To view with hollow eye and wrinkled brow  
An age of poverty; from which lingering penance  
Of such a misery doth she cut me off.  
Commend me to your honourable wife:  
Tell her the process of Antonio's end;

Say how I loved you, speak me fair in death:  
And, when the tale is told, bid her be judge  
Whether Bassanio had not once a love.  
Repent not you that you shall lose your friend,  
And he repents not that he pays your debt;  
For if the Jew do cut but deep enough,  
I'll pay it instantly with all my heart.

*Bass.* Antonio, I am married to a wife  
Which is as dear to me as life itself;  
But life itself, my wife, and all the world,  
Are not with me esteem'd above thy life:  
I would lose all, ay, sacrifice them all  
Here to this devil, to deliver you.

*Por.* Your wife would give you little thanks  
for that.

If she were by, to hear you make the offer.

*Gra.* I have a wife, whom, I protest, I love:  
I would she were in heaven, so she could  
Entreat some power to change this currish Jew.

*Ner.* 'Tis well you offer it behind her back;  
The wish would make else an unquiet house.

*Shy.* [Aside] These be the Christian husbands!  
I have a daughter;  
Would any of the stock of Barabbas  
Had been her husband rather than a Christian!  
[Aloud] We trifle time: I pray thee, pursue sentence.

*Por.* A pound of that same merchant's flesh is thine:  
The court awards it, and the law doth give it.

*Shy.* Most rightful judge!

*Por.* And you must cut this flesh from off his breast:

The law allows it, and the court awards it.



## 12 INTER. POETICAL SELECTIONS

*Shy.* Most learned judge! A sentence! Come,  
prepare!

*Por.* Tarry a little, there is something else.  
This bond doth give thee here no jot of blood;  
The words expressly are "a pound of flesh":  
Take then thy bond, take thou thy pound of flesh;  
But, in the cutting it, if thou dost shed  
One drop of Christian blood, thy lands and goods  
Are, by the laws of Venice, confiscate  
Unto the state of Venice.

*Gra.* O upright judge! Mark, Jew: O learned  
judge!

*Shy.* Is that the law?

*Por.* Thyself shalt see the act:  
For, as thou urgest justice, be assured  
Thou shalt have justice, more than thou desirtest.

*Gra.* O learned judge! Mark, Jew: a learned  
judge!

*Shy.* I take this offer, then; pay the bond thrice  
And let the Christian go.

*Bass.* Here is the money.

*Por.* Soft!

The Jew shall have all justice; soft! no haste:  
He shall have nothing but the penalty.

*Gra.* O Jew! an upright judge, a learned judge!

*Por.* Therefore prepare thee to cut off the flesh.  
Shed thou no blood, nor cut thou less nor more  
But just a pound of flesh: if thou tak'st more  
Or less than a just pound, be it but so much  
As makes it light or heavy in the substance,  
Or the division of the twentieth part  
Of one poor scruple, nay, if the scale do turn  
But in the estimation of a hair,  
Thou diest, and all thy goods are confiscate.



*Gra.* A second Daniel, a Daniel, Jew!  
Now, infidel, I have thee on the hip.

*Por.* Why doth the Jew pause? take thy  
forfeiture.

*Shy.* Give me my principal, and let me go.

*Bass.* I have it ready for thee; here it is.

*Por.* He hath refused it in the open court:  
He shall have merely justice and his bond.

*Gra.* A Daniel, still say I, a second Daniel!  
I thank thee, Jew, for teaching me that word.

*Shy.* Shall I not have barely my principal?

*Por.* Thou shalt have nothing but the forfeiture,  
To be so taken at thy peril, Jew.

*Shy.* Why, then the devil give him good of it!  
I'll stay no longer question.

*Por.* Tarry, Jew:

The law hath yet another hold on you.  
It is enacted in the laws of Venice,  
If it be proved against an alien  
That by direct or indirect attempts  
He seek the life of any citizen,  
The party 'gainst the which he doth contrive  
Shall seize one half his goods; the other half  
Comes to the privy coffer of the state;  
And the offender's life lies in the mercy  
Of the duke only, 'gainst all other voice.  
In which predicament, I say, thou stand'st;  
For it appears, by manifest proceeding,  
That indirectly and directly too  
Thou hast contrived against the very life  
Of the defendant; and thou hast incur'd  
The danger formerly by me rehearsed.  
Down, therefore, and beg mercy of the duke.



*Gra.* Beg that thou mayst have leave to hang  
thyself:

And yet, thy wealth being forfeit to the state,  
Thou hast not left the value of a cord;  
Therefore thou must be hang'd at the state's charge.

*Duke.* That thou shalt see the difference of our  
spirits,

I pardon thee thy life before thou ask it:  
For half thy wealth, it is Antonio's;  
The other half comes to the general state,  
Which humbleness may drive into a fine.

*Por.* Ay, for the state, not for Antonio.

*Shy.* Nay, take my life and all; pardon not that  
You take my house when you do take the prop  
That doth sustain my house; you take my life  
When you do take the means whereby I live.

*Por.* What mercy can you render him, Antonio?

*Gra.* A halter gratis; nothing else, for God's  
sake.

*Ant.* So please my lord the duke and all the  
court,

To quit the fine for one half of his goods,  
I am content; so he will let me have  
The other half in use, to render it,  
Upon his death, unto the gentleman  
That lately stole his daughter:  
Two things provided more, that, for this favour,  
He presently become a Christian;  
The other, that he do record a gift,  
Here in the court, of all he dies possess'd,  
Unto his son Lorenzo and his daughter.

*Duke.* He shall do this, or else I do recant  
The pardon that I late pronounced here.

*Por.* Art thou contented, Jew? what dost thou  
say?

*Shy.* I am content.

*Por.* Clerk, draw a deed of gift.

*Shy.* I pray you, give me leave to go from hence;  
I am not well: send the deed after me,  
And I will sign it.

*Duke.* Get thee gone, but do it.

*Gra.* In christening thou shalt have two god-  
fathers;

Had I been judge, thou shouldst have had ten more,  
To bring thee to the gallows, not the font.

[*Exit SHYLOCK*

*Duke.* Sir, I entreat you home with me to dinner.

*Por.* I humbly do desire your Grace of pardon:  
I must away this night toward Padua,  
And it is meet I presently set forth.

*Duke.* I am sorry that your leisure serves you not.  
Antonio, gratify this gentleman,  
For, in my mind, you are much bound to him.

[*Exeunt DUKE, MAGNIFICOES, and Train*

*Bass.* Most worthy gentleman, I and my friend  
Have by your wisdom been this day acquitted  
Of grievous penalties; in lieu whereof,  
Three thousand ducats, due unto the Jew,  
We freely cope your courteous pains withal.

*Ant.* And stand indebted, over and above,  
In love and service to you evermore.

*Por.* He is well paid that is well satisfied;  
And I, delivering you, am satisfied,  
And therein do account myself well paid:  
My mind was never yet more mercenary.



I pray you, know me when we meet again:  
I wish you well, and so I take my leave.

*Bass.* Dear sir, of force I must attempt you

further:-

Take some remembrance of us, as a tribute,  
Not as a fee: grant me two things, I pray you.  
Not to deny me, and to pardon me.

*Por.* You press me far, and therefore I will yield.

[*To Ant.*] Give me your gloves, I'll wear them for  
your sake;

[*To Bass.*] And, for your love, I'll take this ring  
from you:

Do not draw back your hand; I'll take no more;  
And you in love shall not deny me this.

*Bass.* This ring, good sir,—alas, it is a trifle!  
I will not shame myself to give you this.

*Por.* I will have nothing else but only this;  
And now methinks I have a mind to it.

*Bass.* There's more depends on this than on  
the value.

The dearest ring in Venice will I give you,  
And find it out by proclamation:  
Only for this, I pray you, pardon me.

*Por.* I see, sir, you are liberal in offers:  
You taught me first to beg; and now methinks  
You teach me how a beggar should be answer'd.

*Bass.* Good sir, this ring was given me by  
my wife:

And when she put it on, she made me vow  
That I should neither sell nor give nor lose it.

*Por.* That'scuse serves many men to save  
their gifts.

And if your wife be not a mad-woman,  
And know how well I have deserved this ring,



She would not hold out enemy for ever,  
For giving it to me. Well, peace be with you!

[*Exeunt PORTIA and NERISSA.*]

*Ant.* My Lord Bassanio, let him have the ring;  
Let his deservings and my love withal  
Be valued 'gainst your wife's commandment.

*Bass.* Go, Gratiano; run and overtake him;  
Give him the ring, and bring him, if thou canst,  
Unto Antonio's house: away! make haste.

[*Exit GRATIANO*

Come, you and I will thither presently;  
And in the morning early will we both  
Fly toward Belmont. Come, Antonio.

[*Exeunt*

John Milton

## L'ALLEGRO

Hence loathed Melancholy,  
Of Cerberus, and blackest Midnight born,  
In Stygian cave forlorn  
'Mongst horrid shapes, and shrieks, and sights  
unholy!

Find out some uncouth cell,  
Where brooding Darkness spreads his jealous  
wings,



And the night-raven sings;  
There under ebon shades, and low-brow'd rocks,  
As ragged as thy locks,  
In dark Cimmerian desert ever dwell.  
But come thou goddess fair and free,  
In Heav'n yclept Euphrosyne,  
And by men, heart-easing Mirth;  
Whom lovely Venus at a birth  
With two sister Graces more  
To ivy-crowned Bacchus bore;  
Or whether (as some sager sing)  
The frolic wind that breathes the spring,  
Zephyr with Aurora playing,  
As he met her once a-Maying,  
There on beds of violets blue,  
And fresh-blown roses washed in dew,  
Fill'd her with thee, a daughter fair,  
So buxom, blithe, and debonair.  
Haste thee nymph, and bring with thee  
Jest and youthful Jollity,  
Quips and cranks, and wanton wiles,  
Nods, and becks, and wreathed smiles,  
Such as hang on Hebe's cheek,  
And love to live in dimple sleek;  
Sport that wrinkled Care derides,  
And Laughter holding both his sides.  
Come, and trip it as ye go  
On the light fantastic toe,  
And in thy right hand lead with thee  
The mountain nymph, sweet Liberty;  
And if I give thee honour due,  
Mirth, admit me of thy crew,  
To live with her, and live with thee,  
In unreproved pleasures free;

To hear the lark begin his flight,  
And singing startle the dull night,  
From his watch-tow'r in the skies,  
Till the dappled dawn doth rise;  
Then to come, in spite of sorrow,  
And at my window bid good morrow,  
Through the sweet-briar, or the vine,  
Or the twisted eglantine.

While the cock with lively din,  
Scatters the rear of darkness thin,  
And to the stack, or the barn-door,  
Stoutly struts his dames before:  
Oft list'ning how the hounds and horn  
Cheerly rouse the slumb'ring Morn,  
From the side of some hoar hill,  
Through the high wood echoing shrill.  
Sometime walking not unseen,  
By hedge-row elms, on hillocks green,  
Right against the eastern gate  
Where the great Sun begins his state,  
Rob'd in flames, and amber light,  
The clouds in thousand liveries dight.  
While the ploughman near at hand,  
Whistles o'er the furrow'd land,  
And the milkmaid singeth blithe,  
And the mower whets his scythe,  
And every shepherd tells his tale  
Under the hawthorn in the dale.  
Straight mine eye hath caught new pleasures  
Whilst the landscape round it measures;  
Russet lawns, and fallows gray,  
Where the nibbling flocks do stray,  
Mountains on whose barren breast  
The labouring clouds do often rest;



Meadows trim with daisies pied,  
Shallow brooks, and rivers wide.  
Towers, and battlements it sees  
Bosom'd high in tufted trees,  
Where perhaps some beauty lies,  
The cynosure of neighbouring eyes.  
Hard by, a cottage chimney smokes,  
From betwixt two aged oaks;  
Where Corydon and Thyrsis met,  
Are at their savoury dinner set  
Of herbs, and other country messes,  
Which the neat-handed Phillis dresses;  
And then in haste her bower she leaves,  
With Thestylis to bind the sheaves;  
Or if the earlier season lead  
To the tann'd haycock in the mead.  
Sometimes with secure delight  
The upland hamlets will invite:  
When the merry bells ring round,  
And the jocund rebecks sound  
To many a youth, and many a maid,  
Dancing in the chequer'd shade;  
And young and old come forth to play  
On a sunshine holiday,  
Till the live-long day-light fail;  
Then to the spicy nut-brown ale,  
With stories told of many afeat,  
How faery Mab the junkets eat;  
She was pinch'd and pull'd she said;  
And he by friars' lantern led,  
Tells how the drudging goblin sweat  
To earn his cream-bowl duly set;  
When in one night, ere glimpse of morn,  
His shadowy flail hath thresh'd the corn

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That ten day-labourers could not end.  
Then lies him down the lubber fiend,  
And stretch'd out all the chimney's length,  
Basks at the fire his hairy strength;  
And crop-full out of doors he flings,  
Ere the first cock his matin rings.  
Thus done the tales, to bed they creep,  
By whispering winds soon lull'd asleep.  
Tower'd cities please us then,  
And the busy hum of men,  
Where throngs of knights and barons bold,  
In weeds of peace high triumphs hold,  
With store of ladies, whose bright eyes  
Rain influence, and judge the prize  
Of wit, or arms, while both contend  
To win her grace, whom all commend.  
There let Hymen oft appear,  
In saffron robe, with taper clear,  
And pomp, and feast, and revelry,  
With mask, and antique pageantry;  
Such sights as youthful poets dream  
On summer eves by haunted stream.  
Then to the well-trod stage anon,  
If Jonson's learned sock be on,  
Or sweetest Shakespeare, Fancy's child,  
Warble his native wood-notes wild.  
And ever against eating cares,  
Lap me in soft Lydian airs,  
Married to immortal verse;  
Such as the meeting soul may pierce,  
In notes with many a winding bout  
Of linked sweetness long drawn out;  
With wanton heed, and giddy cunning,  
The melting voice through mazes running;

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Untwisting all the chains that tie  
The hidden soul of harmony.  
That Orpheus' self may heave his head  
From golden slumber on a bed  
Of heap'd Elysian flow'rs; and hear  
Such strains as would have won the ear  
Of Pluto, to have quite set free  
His half-regain'd Eurydice.

These delights, if thou canst give,  
Mirth, with thee I mean to live.

---

## IL PENSERO SO

Hence vain deluding joys,  
The brood of Folly without father bred,  
How little you bestead,  
Or fill the fixed mind with all your toys;  
Dwell in some idle brain;  
And fancies fond with gaudy shapes possess,  
As thick and numberless  
As the gay motes that people the sun-beams,  
Or likest hovering dreams,  
The fickle pensioners of Morpheus' train.  
But hail thou Goddess, sage and holy,  
Hail divinest Melancholy,  
Whose saintly visage is too bright  
To hit the sense of human sight;  
And therefore to our weaker view,  
O'erlaid with black, staid Wisdom's hue;  
Black, but such as in esteem  
Prince Memnon's sister might beseem;



Or that starr'd Ethiop queen that strove  
To set her beauty's praise above  
The sea nymphs, and their powers offended,  
Yet thou art higher far descended;  
Thee bright-hair'd Vesta long of yore,  
To solitary Saturn bore;  
His daughter she (in Saturn's reign,  
Such mixture was not held a stain);  
Oft in glimmering bow'rs, and glades  
He met her; and in secret shades  
Of woody Ida's inmost grove,  
While yet there was no fear of Jove.  
Come pensive Nun, devout and pure,  
Sober, steadfast, and demure,  
All in a robe of darkest grain,  
Flowing with majestic train,  
And sable stole of cypress lawn,  
Over thy decent shoulders drawn.  
Come, but keep thy wonted state,  
With ev'n step, and musing gait,  
And looks commerçing with the skies,  
Thy rapt soul sitting in thine eyes:  
There held in holy passion still,  
Forget thyself to marble, till  
With a sad leaden downward cast,  
Thou fix them on the earth as fast.  
And join with thee calm Peace, and Quiet,  
Spare Fast, that oft with gods doth diet,  
And hears the Muses in a ring,  
Aye round about Jove's altar sing.  
And add to these retired Leisure,  
That in trim gardens takes his pleasure;  
But first, and chiefest, with thee bring,  
Him that soars on golden wing,



Guiding the fiery-wheeled throne,  
The cherub Contemplation,  
And the mute Silence hist along,  
'Less Philomel will deign a song,  
In her sweetest, saddest plight,  
Smoothing the rugged brow of Night,  
While Cynthia checks her dragon yoke,  
Gently o'er th' accustomed oak:  
Sweet bird that shunn'st the noise of folly,  
Most musical, most melancholy!  
Thee chantress oft the woods among,  
I woo to hear thy even-song;  
And missing thee, I walk unseen  
On the dry smooth-shaven green,  
To behold the wand'ring Moon,  
Riding near her highest noon,  
Like one that had been led astray  
Through the Heav'n's wide pathless way;  
And oft, as if her head she bow'd,  
Stooping through a fleecy cloud.  
Oft on a plat of rising ground,  
I hear the far-off curfew sound,  
Over some wide-water'd shore,  
Swinging slow with sullen roar;  
Or if the air will not permit,  
Some still removed place will fit,  
Where glowing embers through the room  
Teach light to counterfeit a gloom,  
Far from all resort of mirth,  
Save the cricket on the hearth,  
Or the bellman's drowsy charm,  
To bless the doors from nightly harm:  
Or let my lamp at midnight hour  
Be seen in some high lonely tow'r,



Where I may oft outwatch the Bear,  
With thrice-great Hermes; or unsphere  
The spirit of Plato to unfold  
What worlds, or what vast regions hold  
The immortal mind that hath forsook  
Her mansion in this fleshly nook;  
And of those demons that are found  
In fire, air, flood, or under ground,  
Whose power hath a true consent  
With planet, or with element.  
Sometime let gorgeous Tragedy  
In scepter'd pall come sweeping by,  
Presenting Thebes, or Pelops' line.  
Or the tale of Troy divine,  
Or what (though rare) of later age,  
Ennobled hath the buskin'd stage.

But, O sad Virgin, that thy power  
Might raise Musaeus from his bower,  
Or bid the soul of Orpheus sing  
Such notes as warbled to the string  
Drew iron tears down Pluto's cheek,  
And made Hell grant what love did seek.  
Or call up him that left half told  
The story of Cambuscan bold,  
Of Camball, and of Algarsife,  
And who had Canace to wife,  
That own'd the virtuous ring and glass,  
And of the wondrous horse of brass  
On which the Tartar king did ride;  
And if aught else great bards beside  
In sage and solemn tunes have sung,  
Of tourneys and of trophies hung;  
Of forests, and enchantments drear,  
Where more is meant than meets the ear.



Thus Night oft see me in thy pale career,  
Till civil-suited Morn appear;  
Not trick'd and frounc'd, as she was wont  
With the Attic boy to hunt,  
But kerchief'd in a comely cloud,  
While rocking winds are piping loud:  
**O**r usher'd with a shower still,  
When the gust hath blown his fill,  
Ending on the rustling leaves,  
With minute drops from off the eaves.  
And when the sun begins to fling  
His flaring beams, me, Goddess, bring  
To arched walks of twilight groves,  
And shadows brown that Sylvan loves,  
Of pine, or monumental oak,  
Where the rude axe with heaved stroke  
Was never heard the nymphs to daunt,  
Or fright them from their hallow'd haunt.  
There in close covert by some brook,  
Where no profaner eye may look,  
Hide me from day's garish eye;  
While the bee with honeyed thigh,  
That at her flow'ry work doth sing,  
And the waters murmuring  
With such consort as they keep,  
Entice the dewy-feather'd Sleep;  
And let some strange mysterious dream  
Wave at his wings in airy stream  
Of lively portraiture display'd,  
Softly on my eyelids laid.  
And as I wake, sweet music breathe  
Above, about, or underneath,  
Sent by some spirit to mortals good,  
Or th' unseen Genius of the wood.



But let my due feet never fail  
To walk the studious cloister's pale,  
And love the high embowed roof,  
With antique pillars massy proof,  
And storied windows richly dight,  
Casting a dim religious light.  
There let the pealing organ blow  
To the full-voic'd quire below,  
In service high, and anthems clear,  
As may with sweetness, through mine ear,  
Dissolve me into ecstasies,  
And bring all Heav'n before mine eyes.  
And may at last my weary age  
Find out the peaceful hermitage,  
The hairy gown and mossy cell,  
Where I may sit, and rightly spell  
Of every star that Heav'n doth show,  
And every herb that sips the dew;  
Till old experience do attain  
To something like prophetic strain.  
These pleasures Melancholy give,  
And I with thee will choose to live.

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### ON HIS BLINDNESS

When I consider how my light is spent,  
Ere half my days, in this dark world and wide,  
And that one talent which is death to hide  
Lodged with me useless, though my soul more bent  
To serve therewith my Maker, and present  
My true account, lest He returning chide;  
" Doth God exact day-labour, light denied?"



I fondly ask. But Patience, to prevent  
That murmur, soon replies, " God doth not need  
Either man's work or his own gifts. Who best      10  
Bear his mild yoke, they serve him best. His state  
Is kingly: thousands at his bidding speed,  
And post o'er land and ocean without rest;  
They also serve who only stand and wait."

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## PARADISE LOST

### BOOK I

Of Man's first disobedience, and the fruit  
Of that forbidden Tree, whose mortal taste  
Brought death into the world, and all our woe,  
With loss of Eden, till one greater Man  
Restore us, and regain the blissful seat,  
Sing, Heavenly Muse, that on the secret top  
Of Oreb, or of Sinai, didst inspire  
That shepherd, who first taught the chosen seed  
In the beginning how the Heavens and Earth  
Rose out of Chaos: or, if Sion hill      10  
Delight thee more, and Siloa's brook that flowed  
Fast by the oracle of God, I thence  
Invoke thy aid to my adventurous song,  
That with no middle flight intends to soar  
Above the Aonian mount, while it pursues  
Things unattempted yet in prose or rhyme.

And chiefly thou, O Spirit, that dost prefer  
Before all temples the upright heart and pure,  
Instruct me, for Thou know'st; thou from the first  
Wast present, and, with mighty wings outspread, 20

Dove-like satst brooding on the vast Abyss,  
 And mad'st it pregnant: what in me is dark  
 Illumine, what is low raise and support;  
 That to the highth of this great argument  
 I may assert Eternal Providence,  
 And justify the ways of God to men.

Say first (for Heaven hides nothing from thy view,  
 Nor the deep tract of Hell) say first what cause  
 Moved our grand parents, in that happy state,  
 Favoured of Heaven so highly, to fall off      30  
 From their Creator, and transgress his will  
 For one restraint, lords of the world besides?  
 Who first seduced them to that foul revolt?  
 The infernal Serpent; he it was, whose guile,  
 Stirred up with envy and revenge, deceived  
 The Mother of Mankind, what time his pride  
 Had cast him out from Heaven, with all his host  
 Of rebel Angels, by whose aid, aspiring  
 To set himself in glory above his peers,  
 He trusted to have equalled the Most High,      40  
 If he opposed; and with ambitious aim  
 Against the throne and monarchy of God  
 Raised impious war in Heaven and battle proud,  
 With vain attempt. Him the Almighty Power  
 Hurled headlong flaming from the ethereal sky,  
 With hideous ruin and combustion, down  
 To bottomless perdition; there to dwell  
 In adamantine chains and penal fire,  
 Who durst defy the Omnipotent to arms.

Nine times the space that measures day and night      50  
 To mortal men, he with his horrid crew  
 Lay vanquished, rolling in the fiery gulf.  
 Confounded though immortal. But his doom  
 Reserved him to more wrath; for now the thought

40

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Both of lost happiness and lasting pain  
 Torments him: round he throws his baleful eyes,  
 That witnessed huge affliction and dismay,  
 Mixed with obdurate pride and steadfast hate.

At once, as far as Angels ken, he views  
 The dismal situation waste and wild: 60

A dungeon horrible, on all sides round,  
 As one great furnace flamed; yet from those flames  
 No light, but rather darkness visible  
 Served only to discover sights of woe,  
 Regions of sorrow, doleful shades, where peace  
 And rest can never dwell, hope never comes  
 That comes to all; but torture without end  
 Still urges, and a fiery deluge, fed  
 With ever-burning sulphur unconsumed.  
 Such place Eternal Justice had prepared. 70

For those rebellious; here their prison ordained  
 In utter darkness, and their portion set,  
 As far removed from God and light of Heaven  
 As from the centre thrice to the utmost pole.  
 Oh how unlike the place from whence they fell!  
 There the companions of his fall, o'erwhelm'd  
 With floods and whirlwinds of tempestuous fire,  
 He soon discerns; and, weltering by his side,  
 One next himself in power, and next in crime,  
 Long after known in Palestine, and named 80  
 Beëlzebub. To whom the Arch-Enemy,  
 And thence in Heaven called Satan, with bold words  
 Breaking the horrid silence, thus began:

"If thou beest he—but Oh how fallen! how changed  
 From him, who in the happy realms of light,  
 Clothed with transcendent brightness, didst outshine  
 Myriads, though bright! if he whom mutual league,  
 United thoughts and counsels, equal hope

And hazard in the glorius enterprise,  
Joined with me once, now misery hath joined 90  
In equal ruin: into what pit thou seest  
From what highth fallen, so much the stronger proved  
He with his thunder: and till then who knew  
The force of those dire arms? yet not for those,  
Nor what the potent Victor in his rage  
Can else inflict, do I repent, or change,  
Though changed in outward lustre, that fixed mind,  
And high disdain from sense of injured merit,  
That with the Mightiest raised me to contend,  
And to the fierce contention brought along 100  
Innumerable force of Spirits armed,  
That durst dislike his reign, and, me preferring,  
His utmost power with adverse power opposed  
In dubious battle on the plains of Heaven,  
And shook his throne. What though the field be lost?  
All is not lost; the unconquerable will,  
And study of revenge, immortal hate,  
And courage never to submit or yield:  
And what is else not to be overcome?  
That glory never shall his wrath or might 110  
Extort from me. To bow and sue for grace  
With suppliant knee and deify his power  
Who, from the terror of this arm, so late  
Doubted his empire—that were low indeed;  
That were an ignominy and shame beneath  
This downfall; since by fate the strength of gods  
And this empyreal substance cannot fail;  
Since, through experience of this great event,  
In arms not worse, in foresight much advanced,  
We may with more successful hope resolve 120  
To wage by force or guile eternal war,  
Irreconcilable to our grand foe,



Who now triumphs, and in the excess of joy  
Sole reigning holds the tyranny of Heaven."

So spake the apostate Angel, though in pain,  
Vaunting aloud, but racked with deep despair;  
And him thus answered soon his bold compeer:

" O Prince, O Chief of many thronèd powers  
That led the embattled Seraphim to war  
Under thy conduct, and, in dreadful deeds      130

Fearless, endangered Heaven's perpetual King;  
And put to proof his high supremacy,

Whether upheld by strength, or chance, or fate!

Too well I see and rue the dire event

That with sad overthrow and foul defeat

Hath lost us Heaven, and all this mighty host

In horrible destruction laid thus low,

As far as gods and heavenly essences

Can perish: for the mind and spirit remains

Invincible, and vigour soon returns,      140

Though all our glory extinct, and happy state

Here swallowed up in endless misery.

But what if he our Conqueror (whom I now

Of force believe Almighty, since no less

Than such could have o'erpowered such force as ours)

Have left us this our spirit and strength entire,

Strongly to suffer and support our pains,

That we may so suffice his vengeful ire,

Or do him mightier service as his thralls

By right of war, whate'er his business be,      150

Here in the heart of Hell to work in fire,

Or do his errands in the gloomy Deep;

What can it then avail though yet we feel

Strength undiminished, or eternal being

To undergo eternal punishment?"

Whereto with speedy words the Arch-fiend replied:

" Fallen Cherub, to be weak is miserable,  
Doing or suffering: but of this be sure,  
To do aught good never will be our task,  
But ever to do ill our sole delight, 160  
As being the contrary to his high will  
Whom we resist. If then his providence  
Out of our evil seek to bring forth good,  
Our labour must be to pervert that end,  
And out of good still to find means of evil;  
Which oftentimes may succeed, so as perhaps  
Shall grieve him, if I fail not, and disturb  
His inmost counsels from their destined aim.  
But see! the angry Victor hath recalled  
His ministers of vengeance and pursuit 170  
Back to the gates of Heaven: the sulphurous  
hail

Shot after us in storm, o'erblown hath laid  
The fiery surge, that from the precipice  
Of Heaven received us falling, and the thunder,  
Winged with red lightning and impetuous rage,  
Perhaps hath spent his shafts, and ceases now  
To bellow through the vast and boundless Deep.  
Let us not slip the occasion, whether scorn,  
Or satiate fury yield it from our Foe.

Seest thou yon dreary plain, forlorn and wild, 180  
The seat of desolation, void of light,  
Save what the glimmering of these livid flames  
Casts pale and dreadful? Thither let us tend  
From off the tossing of these fiery waves;  
There rest, if any rest can harbour there;  
And reassembling our afflicted Powers,  
Consult how we may henceforth most offend  
Our Enemy, our own loss how repair,  
How overcome this dire calamity,



What reinforcements we may gain from hope,190  
If not, what resolution from despair."

Thus Satan, talking to his nearest mate,  
With head up-lift above the wave, and eyes  
That sparkling blazed, his other parts besides  
Prone on the flood, extended long and large,  
Lay floating many a rood, in bulk as huge  
As whom the fables name of monstrous size,  
Titanian or Earth-born, that warred on Jove,  
Briareos or Typhon, whom the den  
By ancient Tarsus held, or that sea-beast200  
Leviathan, which God of all his works  
Created hugest that swim the ocean stream.  
Him, haply slumbering on the Norway foam.  
The pilot of some small night-foundered skiff,  
Deeming some island, oft, as sea-men tell,  
With fixèd anchor in his scaly rind  
Moors by his side under the lee, while night  
Invests the sea, and wishèd morn delays.  
So stretched out huge in length the Arch-fiend

lay

Chained on the burning lake, nor ever thence210  
Had risen or heaved his head, but that the will  
And high permission of all-ruling Heaven  
Left him at large to his own dark designs,  
That with reiterated crimes he might  
Heap on himself damnation, while he sought  
Evil to others, and enraged might see  
How all his malice served but to bring forth  
Infinite goodness, grace, and mercy, shewn  
On man by him seduced, but on himself  
Treble confusion, wrath, and vengeance poured.220  
Forthwith upright he rears from off the pool  
His mighty stature; on each hand the flames



Driven backward slope their pointing spires, and  
rolled  
In billows, leave i' the midst a horrid vale.  
Then with expanded wings he steers his flight  
Aloft, incumbent on the dusky air  
That felt unusual weight, till on dry land  
He lights, if it were land that ever burned  
With solid, as the lake with liquid fire;  
And such appeared in hue, as when the force 230  
Of subterranean wind transports a hill  
Torn from Pelorus, or the shattered side  
Of thundering Ætna, whose combustible  
And fuelled entrails thence conceiving fire,  
Sublimed with mineral fury, aid the winds.  
And leave a singed bottom all involved  
With stench and smoke: such resting found the sole  
Of unblest feet. Him followed his next mate,  
Both glorying to have 'scaped the Stygian flood,  
As gods, and by their own recovered strength, 240  
Not by the sufferance of supernal power.

"Is this the region, this the soil, the clime,"  
Said then the lost Archangel, "this the seat  
That we must change for Heaven, this mournful  
gloom

Above his equals. Farewell, happy fields,  
Where joy for ever dwells! Hail, horrors! hail, 250  
Infernal World! and thou, profoundest Hell.  
Receive thy new possessor: one who brings  
A mind not to be changed by place or time.



The mind is its own place, and in itself  
Can make a Heaven of Hell, a Hell of Heaven.  
What matter where, if I be still the same,  
And what I should be, all but less than he  
Whom thunder hath made greater? Here at least  
We shall be free; the Almighty hath not built  
Here for his envy, will not drive us hence:      260  
Here we may reign secure, and in my choice,  
To reign is worth ambition though in Hell:  
Better to reign in Hell, than serve in Heaven.  
But wherefore let we then our faithful friends,  
The associates and co-partners of our loss,  
Lie thus astonished on the oblivious pool,  
And call them not to share with us their part  
In this unhappy mansion, or once more  
With rallied arms to try what may be yet  
Regained in Heaven, or what more lost in Hell?" 270

So Satan spake, and him Beëlzebub  
Thus answered: " Leader of those armies bright,  
Which but the Omnipotent none could have foiled,  
If once they hear that voice, their loveliest pledge  
Of hope in fears and dangers, heard so oft  
In worst extremes, and on the perilous edge  
Of battle when it raged, in all assaults  
Their surest signal, they will soon resume  
New courage and revive, though now they lie  
Grovelling and prostrate on yon lake of fire,      280  
As we erewhile, astounded and amazed,  
No wonder, fallen such a pernicious bighth."

He scarce had ceased when the superior Fiend  
Was moving toward the shore; his ponderous shield,  
Ethereal temper, massy, large and round,  
Behind him cast; the broad circumference  
Hung on his shoulders like the moon, whose orb



Through optic glass the Tuscan artist views  
At evening from the top of Fesolè,  
Or in Valdarno, to descry new lands, 290  
Rivers, or mountains, in her spotty globe.  
His spear, to equal which the tollest pine  
Hewn on Norwegian hills, to be the mast  
Of some great ammiral, were but a wand,  
He walked with to support uneasy steps  
Over the burning marle, not like those steps  
Of Heaven's azure, and the torrid clime  
Smote on him sore besides, vaulted with fire;  
Nathless he so endured, till on the beach  
Of that inflamed sea, he stood and called 300  
His legions, angel forms, who lay entranced  
Thick as autumnal leaves that strow the brooks  
In Vallombrosa, where the Etrurian shades  
High over-arched embower; or scattered sedge  
Afloat, when the fierce winds Orion armed  
Hath vexed the Red-Sea coast, whose waves o'erthrew  
Busiris and his Memphian chivalry,  
While with perfidious hatred they pursued  
The sojourners of Goshen, who beheld  
From the safe shore their floating carcases , 310  
And broken chariot-wheels, so thick bestrown,  
Abject and lost lay these, covering the flood,  
Under amazement of their hideous change.  
He called so loud, that all the hollow deep  
Of Hell resounded: "Princes, Potentates,  
Warriors, the flower of Heaven, once yours, now lost,  
If such astonishment as this can seize  
Eternal Spirits; or have ye chosen this place  
After the toil of battle to repose  
Your wearied virtue, for the ease you find 320  
To slumber here, as in the vales of Heaven?"



Or in this abject posture have ye sworn  
To adore the Conqueror, who now beholds  
Cherub and Seraph rolling in the flood  
With scattered arms and ensigns, till anon  
His swift pursuers from Heaven-gates discern  
The advantage, and descending tread us down  
Thus drooping, or with linkèd thunderbolts  
Transfix us to the bottom of this gulf?  
Awake, arise, or be for ever fallen!"

330

They heard, and were abashed, and up they sprung  
Upon the wing, as when men wont to watch  
On duty, sleeping found by whom they dread,  
Rouse and bestir themselves ere well awake;  
Nor did they not perceive the evil plight  
In which they were, or the fierce pains not feel;  
Yet to their General's voice they soon obeyed  
Innumerable. As when the potent rod  
Of Amram's son in Egypt's evil day  
Waved round the coast, up called a pitchy cloud 340  
Of locusts, warping on the eastern wind,  
That o'er the realm of impious Pharaoh hung  
Like night, and darkened all the land of Nile:  
So numberless were those bad Angels seen  
Hovering on wing under the cope of Hell,  
'Twixt upper, nether, and surrounding fires;  
Till, as a signal given, the uplifted spear  
Of their great Sultan waving to direct  
Their course, in even balance down they light  
On the firm brimstone, and fill all the plain; 350  
A multitude, like which the populous North  
Poured never from her frozen loins, to pass  
Rhene or the Danaw, when her barbarous sons  
Came like a deluge on the South, and spread  
Beneath Gibraltar to the Libyan sands.

350



Forthwith, from every squadron and each band,  
The heads and leaders thither haste where stood  
Their great Commander; godlike Shapes, and Forms  
Excelling human, princely Dignities,  
And Powers that erst in Heaven sat on thrones; 360  
Though of their names in Heavenly records now  
Be no memorial, blotted out and rased  
By their rebellion, from the Books of Life.

. . . . .

All these and more came flocking; but with looks  
Downcast and damp, yet such wherein appeared  
Obscure some glimpse of joy, to have found their chief  
Not in despair, to have found themselves not lost  
In loss itself; which on his countenance cast  
Like doubtful hue. But he, his wonted pride  
Soon recollecting, with high words, that bore 370  
Semblance of worth, not substance, gently raised  
Their fainting courage, and dispelled their fears:  
Then straight commands that, at the warlike sound  
Of trumpets loud and clarions, be upreared  
His mighty standard; that proud honour claimed  
Azazel as his right, a Cherub tall:  
Who forthwith from the glittering staff unfurled  
The imperial ensign, which, full high advanced,  
Shone like a meteor streaming to the wind,  
With gems and golden lustre rich emblazed, 380  
Seraphic arms and trophies: all the while  
Sonorous metal blowing martial sounds:  
At which the universal host upsent  
A shout that tore Hell's concave, and beyond  
Frighted the reign of Chaos and old Night.  
All in a moment through the gloom were seen  
Ten thousand banners rise into the air.



## 40      INTER. POETICAL SELECTIONS

With orient colours waving: with them rose  
A forest huge of spears; and thronging helms  
Appeared, and serried shields in thick array      390  
Of depth immeasurable. Anon they move  
In perfect phalanx to the Dorian mood  
Of flutes and soft recorders; such as raised  
To hight of noblest temper heroes old  
Arming to battle, and instead of rage  
Deliberate valour breathed, firm, and unmoved  
With dread of death to flight or foul retreat;  
Nor wanting power to mitigate and 'swage  
With solemn touches troubled thoughts, and chase  
Anguish and doubt and fear and sorrow and pain 400  
From mortal or immortal minds. Thus they,  
Breathing united force with fixèd thought,  
Moved on in silence to soft pipes that charmed  
Their painful steps o'er the burnt soil. And now  
Advanced in view they stand, a horrid front  
Of dreadful length and dazzling arms, in guise  
Of warriors old, with ordered spear and shield,  
Awaiting what command their mighty Chief  
Had to impose. He through the armèd files  
Darts his experienced eye, and soon traverse      410  
The whole battalion views, their order due,  
Their visages and stature as of gods;  
Their number last he sums. And now his heart  
Distends with pride, and hardening in his strength  
Glories: for never, since created Man,  
Met such embodied force as, named with these,  
Could merit more than that small infantry  
Warred on by cranes: though all the giant brood  
Of Phlegra with the heroic race were joined  
That fought at Thebes and Ilium, on each side      420  
Mixed with auxiliar gods; and what resounds



In fable or romance of Uther's son,  
Begirt with British and Armoric knights;  
And all who since, baptized or infidel,  
Jousted in Aspramont or Montalban,  
Damasco, or Marocco, or Trebisond,  
Or whom Biserta sent from Africa shore  
When Charlemain with all his peerage fell  
By Fontarabbia. Thus far these beyond  
Compare of mortal drowess, yet observed      430  
Their dread Commander: he, above the rest  
In shape and gesture proudly eminent,  
Stood like a tower; his form had yet not lost  
All her original brightness, nor appeared  
Less than Archangel ruined, and the excess  
Of glory obscured: as when the sun new-risen  
Looks through the horizontal misty air  
Shorn of his beams, or from behind the moon,  
In dim eclipse disastrous twilight sheds  
On half the nations, and with fear of change      440  
Perplexes monarchs. Darkened so, yet shone  
Above them all the Arch-angel: but his face  
Deep scars of thunder had intrenched, and care  
Sat on his faded cheek, but under brows  
Of duntless courage, and considerate pride  
Waiting revenge. Cruel his eye, but cast  
Signs of remorse and passion, to behold  
The fellows of his crime, the followers rather  
(Far other once beheld in bliss), condemned  
For ever now to have their lot in pain,      450  
Millions of Sprits for his fault amerced  
Of Heaven, and from eternal splendours flung  
For his revolt—yet faithful how they stood,  
Their glory withered. As when Heaven's fire  
Hath scathed the forest oaks, or mountain pines,



With singèd top their stately growth, though bare,  
Stands on the blasted heath. He now prepared  
To speak; whereat their doubled ranks they bend  
From wing to wing, and half enclose him round  
With all his peers: attention held them mute. 460  
Thrice he essayed, and thrice, in spite of scorn,  
Tears, such as angels weep, burst forth: at last  
Words interwove with sighs found out their way:

" O myriads of immortal Spirits! O Powers  
Matchless, but with the Almighty!—and that strife  
Was not inglorious, though the event was dire,  
As this place testifies, and this dire change,  
Hateful to utter. But what power of mind,  
Foreseeing or presaging, from the depth  
Of knowledge past or present, could have feared 470  
How such united force of gods, how such  
As stood like these, could ever know repulse?  
For who can yet believe, though after loss,  
That all these puissant legions, whose exile  
Hath emptied Heaven, shall fail to re-ascend  
Self-raised, and re-possess their native seat?  
For me, be witness all the host of Heaven,  
If counsels different, or danger shunned  
By me, have lost our hopes. But He who reigns  
Monarch in Heaven, till then as one secure 480  
Sat on his throne, upheld by old repute,  
Consent or custom, and his regal state  
Put forth at full, but still his strength concealed,  
Which tempted our attempt, and wrought our fall.  
Henceforth his might we know, and know our own  
So as not either to provoke, or dread  
New war, provoked: our better part remains  
To work in close design, by fraud or guile,  
What force effected not: that he no less



At length from us may find, who overcomes      490  
By force, hath overcome but half his foe.  
Space may produce new worlds; whereof so rife  
There went a fame in Heaven that he ere long  
Intended to create, and therein plant  
A generation, whom his choice regard  
Should favour equal to the Sons of Heaven.  
Thither, if but to pry, shall be perhaps  
Our first eruption, thither or elsewhere:  
For this infernal pit shall never hold  
Celestial Spirits in bondage, nor the Abyss      500  
Long under darkness cover. But these thoughts  
Full counsel must mature. Peace is despaired,  
For who can think submission? War then, war  
Open or understood, must be resolved."

He spake; and to confirm his words, outflew  
Millions of flaming swords, drawn from the thighs  
Of mighty Cherubim; the sudden blaze  
Far round illuminated Hell: highly they raged  
Against the Highest, and fierce with graspèd arms  
Clashed on their sounding shields the din of war,      510  
Hurling defiance toward the vault of Heaven.

There stood a hill not far, whose grisly top  
Belched fire and rolling smoke; the rest entire  
Shone with a glossy scurf, undoubted sign  
That in his womb was hid metallic ore,  
The work of sulphur. Thither winged with speed,  
A numerous brigade hastened. As when bands  
Of pioneers, with spade and pickaxe armed,  
Forerun the royal camp, to trench a field,  
Or cast a rampart. Mammon led them on,      520  
Mammon, the least erected Spirit that fell  
From Heaven, for even in Heaven his looks and  
thoughts



Were always downward bent, admiring more  
The riches of Heaven's pavement, trodden gold,  
Than aught divine or holy else enjoyed  
In vision beatific. By him first  
Men also, and by his suggestion taught,  
Ransacked the Centre, and with impious hands  
Rifled the bowels of their mother earth  
For treasures better hid. Soon had his crew      530  
Opened into the hill a spacious wound  
And digged out ribs of gold. Let none admire  
That riches grow in Hell; that soil may best  
Deserve the precious bane. And here let those  
Who boast in mortal things, and wondering tell  
Of .Babel, and the works of Memphian kings,  
Learn how their greatest monuments of fame,  
And strength, and art, are easily outdone  
By Spirits reprobate, and in an hour  
What in an age they, with incessant toil      540  
And hands innumerable, scarce perform.  
Nigh on the plain, in many cells prepared,  
That underneath had veins of liquid fire  
Sluiced from the lake, a second multitude  
With wondrous art founded the massy ore,  
Severing each kind, and scummed the bullion-dross  
A third as soon had formed within the ground  
A various mould, and from the boiling cells  
By strange conveyance filled each hollow nook;  
As in an organ from one blast of wind      550  
To many a row of pipes the sound-board breathes.  
Anon out of the earth a fabric huge  
Rose like an exhalation, with the sound  
Of dulcet symphonies and voices sweet,  
Built like a temple, where pilasters round  
Were set, and Doric pillars overlaid



With golden architrave; nor did there want  
Cornice or frieze, with bossy sculptures graven:  
The roof was fretted gold. Not Babylon  
Nor great Alcairo such magnificence 560  
Equalled in all their glories, to enshrine  
Belus or Serapis their gods, or seat  
Their kings, when Egypt with Assyria strove  
In wealth and luxury. The ascending pile  
Stood fixed her stately highth; and straight the doors,  
Opening their brazen folds, discover, wide  
Within, her ample spaces, o'er the smooth  
And level pavement; from the archèd roof,  
Pendent by subtle magic, many a row  
Of starry lamps and blazing cressets, fed 570  
With naphtha and asphaltus, yielded light  
As from a sky. The hasty multitude  
Admiring entered, and the work some praise  
And some the architect. His hand was known  
In Heaven by many a towered structure high,  
Where sceptred Angels held their residence,  
And sat as Princes, whom the supreme King  
Exalted to such power, and gave to rule,  
Each in his hierarchy, the Orders bright.  
Nor was his name unheard or unadored 580  
In ancient Greece; and in Ausonian land  
Men called him Mulciber; and how he fell  
From Heaven, they fabled, thrown by angry Jove  
Sheer o'er the crystal battlements: from morn  
To noon he fell, from noon to dewy eve,  
A summer's day; and with the setting sun  
Dropt from the zenith like a falling star,  
On Lemnos, the Ægæan isle: thus they relate,  
Erring; for he with this rebellious rout  
Fell long before; nor aught availed him now 590



To have built in Heaven high towers; nor did he scape  
By all his engines, but was headlong sent,  
With his industrious crew to build in Hell.

Meanwhile the winged heralds, by command  
Of sovran power, with awful ceremony  
And trumpet's sound, throughout the host proclaim  
A solemn council forthwith to be held  
At Pandemonium, the high capital  
Of Satan and his peers: their summons called  
From every band and squared regiment 600  
By place or choice the worthiest; they anon  
With hundreds and with thousands trooping came  
Attended: all access was thronged, the gates  
And porches wide, but chief the spacious hall  
(Though like a covered field, where champions bold  
Wont ride in armed, and at the Soldan's chair  
Defied the best of Panim chivalry  
To mortal combat, or career with lance),  
Thick swarmed, both on the ground and in the air,  
Brushed with the hiss of rustling wings. As bees 610  
In spring-time, when the Sun with Taurus rides,  
Pour forth their populous youth about the hive  
In clusters; they among fresh dews and flowers  
Fly to and fro, or on the smoothèd plank,  
The suburb of their straw-built citadel,  
New rubbed with balm, expatiate and confer  
Their state affairs. So thick the airy crown  
Swarmed and were straitened; till, the signal given,  
Behold a wonder! they but now who seemed  
In bigness to surpass Earth's giant sons, 620  
Now less than smallest dwarfs, in narrow room  
Throng numberless, like that pygmean race  
Beyond the Indian mount, or faery elves,  
Whose midnight revels, by a forest side

Or fountain, some belated peasant sees,  
Or dreams he sees, while overhead the Moon  
Sits arbitress, and nearer to the Earth  
Wheels her pale course: they, on their mirth and dance  
Intent, with jocund music charm his ear;  
At once with joy and fear his heart rebounds.      630

Thus incorporeal Spirits to smallest forms  
Reduced their shapes immense, and were at large,  
Though without number still, amidst the hall  
Of that infernal court. But far within,  
And in their own dimensions like themselves,  
The great Seraphic Lords and Cherubim  
In close recess and secret conclave sat,  
A thousand demi-gods on golden seats,  
Frequent and full. After short silence then,  
And summons read, the great consult began.      640

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William Wordsworth

YARROW VISITED

SEPTEMBER, 1814

And is this—Yarrow?—This the stream  
Of which my fancy cherish'd  
So faithfully, a waking dream,  
An image that hath perish'd?  
O that some minstrel's harp were near  
To utter notes of gladness  
And chase this silence from the air,  
That fills my heart with sadness!



Yet why?—a silvery current flows  
 With uncontroll'd meanderings;  
 Nor have these eyes by greener hills  
 Been soothed, in all my wanderings.  
 And, through her depths, Saint Mary's Lake  
 Is visibly delighted;  
 For not a feature of those hills  
 Is in the mirror slighted.

A blue sky bends o'er Yarrow Vale,  
 Save where that pearly whiteness  
 Is round the rising sun diffused,  
 A tender hazy brightness;  
 Mild dawn of promise! that excludes  
 All profitless dejection;  
 Though not unwilling here to admit  
 A pensive recollection.

Where was it that the famous Flower  
 Of Yarrow Vale lay bleeding?  
 His bed perchance was yon smooth mound  
 On which the herd is feeding:  
 And haply from this crystal pool,  
 Now peaceful as the morning,  
 The Water-wraith ascended thrice,  
 And gave his doleful warning.

Delicious is the lay that sings  
 The haunts of happy lovers,  
 The path that leads them to the grove,  
 The leafy grove that covers:  
 And pity sanctifies the verse  
 That paints, by strength of sorrow,  
 The unconquerable strength of love;  
 Bear witness, rueful Yarrow!

But thou that didst appear so fair  
To fond imagination,  
Dost rival in the light of day  
Her delicate creation:  
Meek loveliness is round thee spread,  
A softness still and holy:  
The grace of forest charms decay'd,  
And pastoral melancholy.

That region left, the vale unfolds  
Rich groves of lofty stature,  
With Yarrow winding through the pomp  
Of cultivated nature;  
And rising from those lofty groves  
Behold a ruin hoary,  
The shatter'd front of Newark's towers,  
Renown'd in Border story.

Fair scenes for childhood's opening bloom,  
For sportive youth to stray in,  
For manhood to enjoy his strength,  
And age to wear away in!  
Yon cottage seems a bower of bliss,  
A covert for protection  
Of tender thoughts that nestle there—  
The brood of chaste affection.

How sweet on this autumnal day  
The wild-wood fruits to gather,  
And on my True-love's forehead plant  
A crest of blooming heather!  
And what if I enwreathed my own?  
'Twere no offence to reason;  
The sober hills thus deck their brows  
To meet the wintry season.



I see—but not by sight alone,  
Loved Yarrow, have I won thee;  
A ray of Fancy still survives—  
Her sunshine plays upon thee!  
Thy ever-youthful waters keep  
A course of lively pleasure;  
And gladsome notes my lips can breathe  
Accordant to the measure.

The vapours linger round the heights,  
They melt, and soon must vanish;  
One hour is theirs, nor more is mine—  
Sad thought! which I would banish,  
But that I know, wher'er I go,  
Thy genuine image, Yarrow!  
Will dwell with me, to heighten joy,  
And cheer my mind in sorrow.

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### YARROW UNVISITED

From Stirling castle we had seen  
The mazy Forth unravelled;  
Had trod the banks of Clyde, and Tay,  
And with the Tweed had travelled;  
And when we came to Clovenford,  
Then said my "*winsome Marrow,*"  
" Whate'er betide, we'll turn aside,  
And see the Braes of Yarrow."



" Let Yarrow folk, *fræ* Selkirk town,  
Who have been buying, selling, 10  
Go back to Yarrow, 'tis their own;  
Each maiden to her dwelling!  
On Yarrow's banks let herons feed,  
Hares couch, and rabbits burrow!  
But we will downward with the Tweed,  
Nor turn aside to Yarrow.

" There's Galla Water, Leader Haughs,  
Both lying right before us;  
And Dryborough, where with chiming Tweed  
The lintwhites sing in chorus; 20  
There's pleasant Tiviot-dale, a land  
Made blithe with plough and harrow:  
Why throw away a needful day  
To go in search of Yarrow?

" What's Yarrow but a river bare,  
That glides the dark hills under?  
There are a thousand such elsewhere  
As worthy of your wonder."  
—Strange words they seemed of slight and scorn;  
My True-love sighed for sorrow; 30  
And looked me in the face, to think  
I thus could speak of Yarrow!

" Oh! green," said I, " are Yarrow's holms,  
And sweet is Yarrow flowing!  
Fair hangs the apple *fræ* the rock,  
But we will leave it growing.



O'er hilly path, and open Strath,  
We'll wander Scotland thorough;  
But, though so near, we will not turn  
Into the dale of Yarrow.

40

" Let beeves and home-bred kine partake  
The sweets of Burn-mill meadow;  
The swan on still St. Mary's Lake  
Float double, swan and shadow!  
We will not see them; will not go,  
To-day, nor yet to-morrow;  
Enough if in our hearts we know  
There's such a place as Yarrow.

" Be Yarrow stream unseen, unknown!  
It must, or we shall rue it:  
We have a vision of our own;  
Ah! why should we undo it?  
The treasured dreams of times long past,  
We'll keep them, winsome Marrow!  
For when we're there, although 'tis fair,  
'Twill be another Yarrow!

50

" If Care with freezing years should come,  
And wandering seem but folly,—  
Should we be loth to stir from home,  
And yet be melancholy;  
Should life be dull, and spirits low,  
'Twill soothe us in our sorrow,  
That earth has something yet to show,  
The bonny holms of Yarrow!"

60



## S. T. Coleridge

## THE RIME OF THE ANCIENT MARINER

## ARGUMENT

*How a Ship having first sailed to the Equator,  
was driven by Storms to the cold Country towards the  
South Pole; how the Ancient Mariner cruelly, and in  
contempt of the laws of hospitality, killeth a sea-bird,  
and how he was followed by many strange judgments,  
and in what manner he came back to his own country.*

## PART I

It is an ancient Mariner,  
And he stoppeth one of three.

" By thy long grey beard and glittering eye,  
Now wherefore stopp'st thou me?

" The Bridegroom's doors are opened wide,  
And I am next of kin;  
The guests are met, the feast is set:  
May'st hear the merry din."

He holds him with his skinny hand,

" There was a ship," quoth he.

" Hold off! unhand me, greybeard loon!"

Eftsoons his hand dropt he.

10

He holds him with his glittering eye—

The Wedding-Guest stood still,

And listens like a three years' child:

The Mariner hath his will.



The Wedding-Guest sat on a stone:  
He cannot choose but hear;  
And thus spake on that ancient man,  
The bright-eyed Mariner.

20

" The ship was cheered, the harbour cleared,  
Merrily did we drop  
Below the kirk, below the hill,  
Below the lighthouse top.

" The Sun came up upon the left,  
Out of the sea came he!  
And he shone bright, and on the right  
Went down into the sea.

" Higher and higher every day,  
Till over the mast at noon—"

30

The Wedding-Guest here beat his breast,  
For he heard the loud bassoon.

The Bride hath paced into the hall,  
Red as a rose is she;  
Nodding their heads before her goes  
The merry minstrelsy.

The Wedding-Guest he beat his breast,  
Yet he cannot choose but hear;  
And thus spake on that ancient man,  
The bright-eyed Mariner.

40

" And now the storm-blast came, and he  
Was tyrannous and strong:  
He struck with his o'ertaking wings,  
And chased us south along.

" With sloping masts and dipping prow,  
As who pursued with yell and blow  
Still treads the shadow of his foe  
And forward bends his head,  
The ship drove fast, loud roared the blast,  
And southward ay we fled.

50

" And now there came both mist and snow,  
And it grew wondrous cold:  
And ice, mast-high, came floating by,  
As green as emerald.

" And through the drifts the snowy cliffs  
Did send a dismal sheen:  
Nor shapes of men nor beasts we ken—  
The ice was all between.

" The ice was here, the ice was there,  
The ice was all around: 6  
It cracked and growled, and roared and howled,  
Like noises in a swound!

" At length did cross an Albatross:  
Through the fog it came;  
As if it had been a Christian soul,  
We hailed it in God's name.

" It ate the food it ne'er had eat,  
And round and round it flew.  
The ice did split with a thunder-fit;  
The helmsman steered us through! 70



" And a good south wind sprung up behind;  
 The Albatross did follow,  
 And every day, for food or play,  
 Came to the mariner's hollo !

" In mist or cloud, on mast or shroud,  
 It perched for vespers nine ;  
 Whiles all the night, through fog-smoke white,  
 Glimmered the white moonshine."

" God save thee, ancient Mariner !  
 From the fiends, that plague thee thus !— 80  
 Why look'st thou so?"—" With my cross-bow  
 I shot the ALBATROSS.

## PART II

" The Sun now rose upon the right :  
 Out of the sea came he.  
 Still-hid in mist, and on the left  
 Went down into the sea.

" And the good south wind still blew behind,  
 But no sweet bird did follow,  
 Nor any day for food or play  
 Came to the mariner's hollo ! 90

" And I had done an hellish thing,  
 And it would work 'em woe :  
 For all averred, I had killed the bird  
 That made the breeze to blow.  
 Ah wretch ! said they, the bird to slay,  
 That made the breeze to blow !

" Nor dim nor red, like God's own head,  
The glorious Sun uprise:  
Then all averred, I had killed the bird  
That brought the fog and mist. 100.  
'Twas right, said they, such birds to slay,  
That bring the fog and mist.

" The fair breeze blew, the white foam flew,  
The furrow followed free;  
We were the first that ever burst  
Into that silent sea.

" Down dropt the breeze, the sails dropt down,  
'Twas sad as sad could be;  
And we did speak only to break  
The silence of the sea! 110.

" All in a hot and copper sky,  
The bloody Sun, at noon,  
Right up above the mast did stand  
No bigger than the Moon.

" Day after day, day after day,  
We stuck, nor breath nor motion;  
As idle as a painted ship  
Upon a painted ocean.

" Water, water, everywhere,  
And all the boards did shrink; 120.  
Water, water, everywhere,  
Nor any drop to drink.

" The very deep did rot: O Christ!  
That ever this should be!  
Yea, slimy things did crawl with legs  
Upon the slimy sea.



" About, about, in reel and rout  
The death-fires danced at night;  
The water, like a witch's oils,  
Burnt green, and the blue and white.

130

" And some in dreams assured were  
Of the Spirit that plagued us so,  
Nine fathom deep he had followed us  
From the land of mist and snow.

" And every tongue, through utter drought,  
Was withered at the root;  
We could not speak, no more than if  
We had been choked with soot.

" Ah! well-a-day! what evil looks  
Had I from old and young!  
Instead of the cross, the Albatross  
About my neck was hung.

140

## PART III

" There passed a weary time. Each throat  
Was parched, and glazed each eye.  
A weary time! a weary time!  
How glazed each weary eye,  
When looking westward, I beheld  
A something in the sky.

" At first it seemed a little speck,  
And then it seemed a mist;  
It moved and moved, and took at last  
A certain shape, I wist.

150



" A speck, a mist, a shape, I wist!  
And still it neared and neared:  
As if it dodged a water-sprite,  
It plunged and tacked and veered.

" With throats unslaked, with black lips baked,  
We could not laugh nor wail;  
Through utter drought all dumb we stood!  
I bit my arm, I sucked the blood,      160  
And cried, a sail! a sail!

" With throats unslaked, with black lips baked,  
Agape they heard me call:  
Gramercy! they for joy did grin,  
And all at once their breath drew in,  
As they were drinking all.

" See! See! (I cried) she tacks no more!  
Hither to work us weal;  
Without a breeze, without a tide,  
She steadies with upright keel!      170

" The western wave was all a-flame.  
The day was wellnigh done!  
Almost upon the western wave  
Rested the broad bright Sun;  
When that strange shape drove suddenly  
Betwixt us and the Sun.

" And straight the Sun was flecked with bars,  
(Heaven's Mother send us grace!)  
As if through a dungeon-grate he peered  
With broad and burning face.      180



" Alas! (thought I, and my heart beat loud)  
 How fast she nears and nears!  
 Are those *her* sails that glance in the Sun,  
 Like restless gossamers?

" Are those *her* ribs through which the Sun  
 Did peer, as through a grate?  
 And is that Woman all her crew?  
 Is that a DEATH? and are there two?  
 Is DEATH that woman's mate?

" Her lips were red, her looks were free,  
 Her locks were yellow as gold:  
 Her skin was as white as leprosy,  
 The nightmare LIFE-IN-DEATH was she,  
 Who thicks man's blood with cold.

190

" The naked hulk alongside came,  
 And the twain were casting dice;  
 ' The game is done! I've won, I've won! '  
 Quoth she, and whistles thrice.

" The Sun's rim dips; the stars rush out:  
 At one stride comes the dark;  
 With far-heard whisper, o'er the sea,  
 Off shot the spectre-bark.

200

" We listened and looked sideways up!  
 Fear at my heart, as at a cup,  
 My life-blood seemed to sip!  
 The stars were dim, and thick the night,  
 The steersman's face by his lamp gleamed white;



" From the sails the dew did drip—  
Till clomb above the eastern bar  
The horned Moon, with one bright star                   210  
Within the nether tip.

" One after one, by the star-dogged Moon,  
Too quick for groan or sigh,  
Each turned his face with a ghastly pang,  
And cursed me with his eye.

" Four times fifty living men,  
(And I heard nor sigh nor groan)  
With heavy thump, a lifeless lump,  
They dropped down one by one.

" The souls did from their bodies fly,—                   220  
They fled to bliss or woe!  
And every soul, it passed me by,  
Like the whizz of my cross-bow!"

## PART IV

" I fear these, ancient Mariner!  
I fear thy skinny hand!  
And thou art long, and lank, and brown,  
As is the ribbed sea-sand.\*

\* For the two last lines of this stanza, I am indebted to Mr. Wordsworth. It was on a delightful walk from Nether Stowey to Dulverton, with him and his sister, in the autumn of 1797, that this poem was planned, and in part composed. [Coleridge's note.]



" I fear thee and thy glittering eye,  
And thy skinny hand, so brown."—

" Fear not, fear not, thou Wedding-Guest!  
This body drop not down.

230

" Alone, alone, all, all alone,  
Alone on a wide wide sea!  
And never a saint took pity on  
My soul in agony.

" The many men, so beautiful!  
And they all dead did lie:  
And a thousand thousand slimy things  
Lived on; and so did I.

" I looked upon the rotting sea,  
And drew my eyes away;  
I looked upon the rotting deck,  
And there the dead men lay.

240

" I looked to Heaven, and tried to pray;  
But or ever a prayer had gusht,  
A wicked whisper came, and made  
My heart as dry as dust.

" I closed my lids, and kept them close,  
And the balls like pulses beat;  
For the sky and the sea, and the sea and the sky 250  
Lay like a load on my weary eye,  
And the dead were at my feet.



" The cold sweat melted from their limbs,  
Nor rot nor reek did they:  
The look with which they looked on me  
Had never passed away.

" An orphan's curse would drag to Hell  
A Spirit from on high;  
But oh! more horrible than that  
Is a curse in a dead man's eye!  
Seven days, seven nights, I saw that curse,  
And yet I could not die.

260.

" The moving Moon went up the sky,  
And nowhere did abide:  
Softly she was going up,  
And a star or two beside—

" Her beams bemocked the sultry main,  
Like April hoar-frost spread;  
But where the ship's huge shadow lay,  
The charmed water burnt alway  
A still and awful red.

270.

" Beyond the shadow of the ship,  
I watched the water-snakes:  
They moved in tracks of shining white,  
And when they reared, the elfish light  
Fell off in hoary flakes.

" Within the shadow of the ship  
I watched their rich attire:  
Blue, glossy green, and velvet black,  
They coiled and swam; and every track  
Was a flash of golden fire.

280.



" O happy living things! no tongue  
 Their beauty might declare:  
 A spring of love gushed from my heart,  
 And I blessed them unaware:  
 Sure my kind saint took pity on me,  
 And I blessed them unaware.

" The selfsame moment I could pray;  
 And from my neck so free  
 The Albatross fell off, and sank  
 Like lead into the sea.

290

## PART V

" Oh sleep! it is a gentle thing,  
 Beloved from pole to pole!  
 To Mary Queen the praise be given!  
 She sent the gentle sleep from Heaven,  
 That slid into my soul.

" The silly buckets on the deck,  
 That had so long remained,  
 I dreamt that they were filled with dew;  
 And when I awoke, it rained.

300

" My lips were wet, my throat was cold,  
 My garments all were dank;  
 Sure I had drunken in my dreams,  
 And still my body drank.

" I moved, and could not feel my limbs:  
 I was so light—almost  
 I thought that I had died in sleep,  
 And was a blessed ghost.



" And soon I heard a roaring wind :  
It did not come anear;  
But with its sound it shook the sails,  
That were so thin and sere.

310

" The upper air burst into life !  
And a hundred fire-flags sheen,  
To and fro they were hurried about !  
And to and fro, and in and out,  
The wan stars danced between.

" And the coming wind did roar more loud,  
And the sails did sigh like sedge ;  
And the rain poured down from one black cloud ; 320  
The Moon was at its edge.

" The thick black cloud was cleft, and still  
The Moon was at its side :  
Like waters shot from some high crag,  
The lightning fell with never a jag,  
A river steep and wide.

" The loud wind never reached the ship,  
Yet now the ship moved on !  
Beneath the lightning and the Moon  
The dead men gave a groan.

330

" They groaned, they stirred, they all uprose,  
Nor spake, nor moved their eyes;  
It had been strange, even in a dream,  
To have seen those dead men rise.



" The helmsman steered, the ship moved on;  
 Yet never a breeze up blew;  
 The mariners all 'gan work the ropes,  
 Where they were wont to do;  
 They raised their limbs like lifeless tools—  
 We were a ghastly crew."

340

" The body of my brother's son  
 Stood by me, knee to knee:  
 The body and I pulled at one rope,  
 But he said nought to me."

" I fear thee, ancient Mariner!"  
 " Be calm, thou Wedding-Guest!  
 'Twas not those souls that fled in pain,  
 Which to their corses came again,  
 But a troop of spirits blest:

" For when it dawned—they dropped their arms, 350  
 And clustered round the mast;  
 Sweet sounds rose slowly through their mouths,  
 And from their bodies passed.

" Around, around, flew each sweet sound,  
 Then darted to the Sun;  
 Slowly the sounds came back again,  
 Now mixed, now one by one.

" Sometimes a-dropping from the sky  
 I heard the skylark sing;  
 Sometimes all little birds that are,  
 How they seemed to fill the sea and air  
 With their sweet jargoning!

360



" And now 'twas like all instruments,  
Now like a lonely flute ;  
And now it is an angel's song,  
That makes the Heavens be mute.

" It ceased; yet still the sails made on  
A pleasant noise till noon,  
A noise like of a hidden brook  
In the leafy month of June,  
That to the sleeping woods all night  
Singeth a quiet tune. 370

" Till noon we quietly sailed on,  
Yet never a breeze did breathe :  
Slowly and smoothly went the ship,  
Moved onward from beneath.

" Under the keel nine fathom deep,  
From the land of mist and snow,  
The spirit slid : and it was he  
That made the ship to go. 380  
The sails at noon left off their tune,  
And the ship stood still also.

" The Sun, right up above the mast,  
Had fixed her to the ocean :  
But in a minute she 'gan stir,  
With a short uneasy motion—  
Backwards and forwards half her length  
With a short uneasy motion.

" Then like a pawing horse let go,  
She made a sudden bound :  
It flung the blood into my head,  
And I fell down in a swoon. 390



" How long in that same fit I lay,  
 I have not to declare;  
 But ere my living life returned,  
 I heard and in my soul discerned  
 Two voices in the air.

" ' Is it he ? ' quoth one, ' Is this the man ?  
 By Him who died on cross,  
 With his cruel bow he laid full low  
 The harmless Albatross. 400

" ' The spirit who bideth by himself  
 In the land of mist and snow,  
 He loved the bird that loved the man  
 Who shot him with his bow.'

' The other was a softer voice,  
 As soft as honeydew :  
 Quoth he, ' The man hath penance done,  
 And penance more will do.'

## PART VI

### FIRST VOICE

" ' But tell me, tell me ! speak again  
 Thy soft response renewing—  
 What makes that ship drive on so fast ?  
 What is the ocean doing ? ' 410

### SECOND VOICE

" ' Still as a slave before his lord,  
 The ocean hath no blast ;  
 His great bright eye most silently  
 Up to the Moon is cast—



“ ‘ If he may know which way to go;  
For she guides him smooth or grim.  
See, brother, see! how graciously      420  
She looketh down on him.’

## FIRST VOICE

“ ‘ But why drives on that ship so fast,  
Without or wave or wind?’

## SECOND VOICE

“ ‘ The air is cut away before,  
And closes from behind.

“ ‘ Fly, brother, fly! more high, more high!  
Or we shall be belated:  
For slow and slow that ship will go,  
When the Mariner’s trance is abated.’

“ I woke, and we were sailing on      430  
As in a gentle weather:  
’Twas night, calm night, the Moon was high;  
The dead men stood together.

“ All stood together on the deck,  
For a charnel-dungeon fitter:  
All fixed on me their stony eyes,  
That in the Moon did glitter.

“ The pang, the curse, with which they died,  
Had never passed away:  
I could not draw my eyes from theirs,      440  
Nor turn them up to pray.



## 70      INTER. POETICAL SELECTIONS

" And now the spell was snapt: once more  
I viewed the ocean green,  
And looked far forth, yet little saw  
Of what had else been seen—

" Like one, that on a lonesome road  
Doth walk in fear and dread,  
And having once turned round walks on,  
And turns no more his head;  
Because he knows, a frightful fiend  
Doth close behind him tread.                  450

" But soon there breathed a wind on me,  
Nor sound nor motion made:  
Its path was not upon the sea,  
In ripple or in shade.

" It raised my hair, it fanned my cheek  
Like a meadow-gale of spring—  
It mingled strangely with my fears,  
Yet it felt like a welcoming.

" Swiftly, swiftly flew the ship,  
Yet she sailed softly too:  
Sweetly, sweetly blew the breeze—  
On me alone it blew.                          460

" Oh! dream of joy! is this indeed  
The lighthouse top I see?  
Is this the hill? is this the kirk?  
Is this mine own countree?

" We drifted o'er the harbour-bar,  
And I with sobs did pray—  
O let me be awake, my God !  
Or let me sleep alway.

470

" The harbour bay was clear as glass,  
So smoothly it was strewn !  
And on the bay the moonlight lay,  
And the shadow of the Moon.

" The rock shone bright, the kirk no less,  
That stands above the rock :  
The moonlight steeped in silentness  
The steady weathercock.

" And the bay was white with silent light,  
Till rising from the same,  
Full many shapes, that shadows were,  
In crimson colours came.

480

" A little distance from the prow  
Those crimson shadows were :  
I turned my eyes upon the deck—  
Oh, Christ ! what saw I there !

" Each corse lay flat, lifeless and flat,  
And, by the holy rood !  
A man all light, a seraph-man,  
On every corse there stood.

490

" This seraph-band, each waved his hand :  
It was a heavenly sight !  
They stood as signals to the land,  
Each one a lovely light ;



## 72      INTER. POETICAL SELECTIONS

" This seraph-band, each waved his hand,  
No voice did they impart—  
No voice; but oh! the silence sank  
Like music on my heart.

" But soon I heard the dash of oars,  
I heard the Pilot's cheer;  
My head was turned perforce away,  
And I saw a boat appear.

500

" The Pilot and the Pilot's boy,  
I heard them coming fast:  
Dear Lord in Heaven! it was a joy  
The dead men could not blast.

" I saw a third—I heard his voice:  
It is the Hermit good!

He singeth loud his godly hymns  
That he makes in the wood.  
He'll shrieve my soul, he'll wash away  
The Albatross's blood.

510

## PART VII

" This Hermit good lives in that wood  
Which slopes down to the sea.  
How loudly his sweet voice he rears!  
He loves to talk with marineres  
That come from a far countree.

" He kneels at morn, and noon, and eve—  
He hath a cushion plump:  
It is the moss that wholly hides  
The rotted old oak-stump.

520



"The skiff-boat neared: I heard them talk,  
' Why, this is strange, I trow!  
Where are those lights so many and fair,  
That signal made but now? '

" Strange, by my faith! ' the Hermit said—  
' And they answered not our cheer!  
The planks look warped! and see those sails,  
How thin they are and sere!  
I never saw aught like to them,  
Unless perchance it were

530.

" Brown skeletons of leaves that lag  
My forest-brook along;  
When the ivy-tod is heavy with snow,  
And the owlet whoops to the wolf below,  
That eats the she-wolf's young.'

" Dear Lord! it hath a fiendish look—'  
(The Pilot made reply)  
' I am a-feared.'—" Push on, push on! '  
Said the Hermit cheerily.

549-

" The boat came closer to the ship,  
But I nor spake nor stirred;  
The boat came close beneath the ship,  
And straight a sound was heard.

" Under the water it rumbled on,  
Still louder and more dread:  
It reached the ship, it split the bay;  
The ship went down like lead.



" Stunned by that loud and dreadful sound,  
Which sky and ocean smote,  
Like one that hath been seven days drowned  
My body lay afloat;  
But swift as dreams, myself I found  
Within the Pilot's boat.

550

" Upon the whirl, where sank the ship,  
The boat spun round and round;  
And all was still, save that the hill  
Was telling of the sound.

" I moved my lips—the Pilot shrieked  
And fell down in a fit:  
The holy Hermit raised his eyes,  
And prayed where he did sit.

560

" I took the oars: the Pilot's boy,  
Who now doth crazy go,  
Laughed loud and long, and all the while  
His eyes went to and fro.  
' Ha! ha! ' quoth he, ' full plain I see,  
The Devil knows how to row.'

" And now, all in my own countree,  
I stood on the firm land!  
The Hermit stepped forth from the boat,  
And scarcely he could stand.

570

" ' O shrieve me, shrieve me, holy man! '  
The Hermit crossed his brow.  
' Say quick,' quoth he, ' I bid thee say—  
What manner of man art thou? '

" Forthwith this frame of mine was wrenched  
With a woeful agony,  
Which forced me to begin my tale; 580  
And then it left me free.

" Since then, at an uncertain hour,  
That agony returns:  
And till my ghastly tale is told,  
This heart within me burns.

" I pass, like night, from land to land:  
I have strange power of speech;  
That moment that his face I see,  
I know the man that must hear me:  
To him my tale I teach. 590

" What loud uproar bursts from that door!  
The wedding-guests are there:  
But in the garden-bower the bride  
And bride-maids singing are:  
And hark the little vesper bell,  
Which biddeth me to prayer!

" O Wedding-Guest! this soul hath been  
Alone on a wide wide sea:  
So lonely 'twas, that God himself  
Scarce seemed there to be. 600

" O sweeter than the marriage-feast,  
'Tis sweeter far to me,  
To walk together to the kirk  
With a goodly company!—



" To walk together to the kirk,  
And all together pray,  
While each to his great Father bends,  
Old men, and babes, and loving friends,  
And youths and maidens gay !

" Farewell, farewell ! but this I tell  
To thee, thou Wedding-Guest !  
He prayeth well, who loveth well  
Both man and bird and beast.

" He prayeth best, who loveth best  
All things both great and small;  
For the dear God who loveth us,  
He made and loveth all."

The Mariner, whose eye is bright,  
Whose beard with age is hoar,  
Is gone : and now the Wedding-Guest  
Turned from the bridegroom's door.

He went like one that hath been stunned,  
And is of sense forlorn :  
A sadder and a wiser man,  
He rose the morrow morn.

610

620

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Lord Byron

THE OCEAN

Roll on, thou deep and dark blue Ocean—roll !  
Ten thousand fleets sweep over thee in vain ;  
Man marks the earth with ruin—his control  
Stops with the shore; upon the watery plain  
The wrecks are all thy deed, nor doth remain

A shadow of man's ravage, save his own,  
When, for a moment, like a drop of rain,  
He sinks into thy depths with bubbling groan,  
Without a grave, unknell'd, uncoffin'd, and unknown.

His steps are not upon thy paths,—thy fields  
Are not a spoil for him,—thou dost arise  
And shake him from thee; the vile strength he  
wields

For earth's destruction thou dost all despise,  
Spurning him from thy bosom to the skies,  
And send'st him, shivering in thy playful spray  
And howling, to his Gods, where haply lies  
His petty hope in some near port or bay,  
And dashest him again to earth:—there let him lay.

The armaments which thunderstrike the walls  
Of rock-built cities, bidding nations quake,  
And monarchs tremble in their capitals,  
The oak leviathans, whose huge ribs make  
Their clay creator the vain title take  
Of lord of thee, and arbiter of war—  
These are thy toys, and, as the snowy flake,  
They melt into thy yeast of waves, which mar  
Alike the Armsada's pride or spoils of Trafalgar.

Thy shores are empires, changed in all save thee—  
Assyria, Greece, Rome, Carthage, what are they?  
Thy waters wash'd them power while they were  
free,

And many a tyrant since; their shores obey  
The stranger, slave, or savage; their decay  
Has dried up realms to deserts:—not so thou;—  
Unchangeable, save to thy wild waves' play.



Time writes no wrinkle on thine azure brow:  
Such as creation's dawn beheld, thou rollest now.

And I have loved thee, Ocean! and my joy  
Of youthful sports was on thy breast to be  
Borne, like thy bubbles, onward: from a boy  
I wanton'd with thy breakers—they to me  
Were a delight; and if the freshening sea  
Made them a terror—'twas a pleasing fear,  
For I was as it were a child of thee,  
And trusted to thy billows far and near,  
And laid my hand upon thy mane—as I do here.

My task is done, my song hath ceased, my theme  
Has died into an echo; it is fit  
The spell should break of this protracted dream.  
The torch shall be extinguish'd which hath lit  
My midnight lamp—and what is writ, is writ;  
Would it were worthier! but I am not now  
That which I have been—and my visions flit  
Less palpably before me—and the glow  
Which in my spirit dwelt is fluttering, faint, and low.



Farewell! a word that must be, and hath been—  
A sound which makes us linger;—yet—farewell!  
Ye! who have traced the Pilgrim to the scene  
Which is his last, if in your memories dwell  
A thought which once was his, if on ye swell  
A single recollection, not in vain  
He wore his sandal-shoon and scallop-shell;  
Farewell! with *him* alone may rest the pain,  
If such there were—with *you*, the moral of his

strain..

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P. B. Shelley

### TO NIGHT

Swiftly walk over the western wave,  
Spirit of Night!  
Out of the misty eastern cave,  
Where all the long and lone daylight,  
Thou wovest dreams of joy and fear,  
Which make thee terrible and dear,—  
Swift be thy flight!

Wrap thy form in a mantle gray,  
Star-in wrought!  
Blind with thine hair the eyes of Day;  
Kiss her until she be wearied out,  
Then wander o'er city, and sea, and land,  
Touching all with thine opiate wand—  
Come, long sought!



When I arose and saw the dawn,  
     I sighed for thee;  
 When light rode high, and the dew was gone,  
     And noon lay heavy on flower and tree,  
     And the weary Day turned to his rest,  
     Lingering like an unloved guest,  
     I sighed for thee.

20

Thy brother Death came, and cried,  
     Wouldst thou me?  
 Thy sweet child Sleep, the filmy-eyed,  
     Murmured like a noon-tide bee,  
     Shall I nestle near thy side?  
     Wouldst thou me?—And I replied,  
     No, not thee.

Death will come when thou art dead,  
     Soon, too soon—  
 Sleep will come when thou art fled;  
     Of neither would I ask the boon  
     I ask of thee, beloved Night—  
     Swift be thine approaching flight,  
     Come soon, soon!

80

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### TO A SKYLARK

Hail to thee, blithe Spirit!  
     Bird thou never wert,  
     That from heaven, or near it,  
     Pourest thy full heart  
     In profuse strains of unpremeditated art.



Higher still and higher  
From the earth thou springest  
Like a cloud of fire;  
The blue deep thou wingest,  
**And singing still dost soar, and soaring ever singest,**

In the golden lightning  
Of the sunken sun,  
O'er which clouds are brightening,  
Thou dost float and run,  
**Like an unbodied joy whose race is just begun.**

The pale purple even  
Melts around thy flight;  
Like a star of heaven  
In the broad daylight  
**Thou art unseen, but yet I hear thy shrill delight:**

Keen as are the arrows  
Of that silver sphere,  
Whose intense lamp narrows  
In the white dawn clear  
**Until we hardly see, we feel that it is there.**

All the earth and air  
With thy voice is loud,  
As, when night is bare,  
From one lonely cloud  
**The moon rains out her beams, and heaven is over-flow'd.**



What thou art we know not;  
 What is most like thee?  
 From rainbow clouds there flow not  
 Drops so bright to see  
 As from thy presence showers a rain of melody.

Like a poet hidden  
 In the light of thought,  
 Singing hymns unbidden,  
 Till the world is wrought  
 To sympathy with hopes and fears it heeded not:

Like a high-born maiden  
 In a palace tower,  
 Soothing her love-laden  
 Soul in secret hour  
 With music sweet as love, which overflows her bower:

Like a glow-worm golden  
 In a dell of dew,  
 Scattering un beholden  
 Its aerial hue  
 Among the flowers and grass, which screen it from  
 the view:

Like a rose embower'd  
 In its own green leaves,  
 By warm winds deflower'd,  
 Till the scent it gives  
 Makes faint with too much sweet these heavy-wing'd  
 thieves.



Sound of vernal showers  
On the twinkling grass,  
Rain-awaken'd flowers,  
All that ever was  
Joyous, and clear, and fresh, thy music doth surpass.

Teach us, sprite or bird,  
What sweet thoughts are thine:  
I have never heard  
Praise of love or wine  
That panted forth a flood of rapture so divine.

Chorus hymeneal,  
Or triumphal chant,  
Match'd with thine would be all  
But an empty vaunt—  
A thing wherein we feel there is some hidden want.

What objects are the fountains  
Of thy happy strain?  
What fields, or waves, or mountains?  
What shapes of sky or plain?  
What love of thine own kind? what ignorance of pain?

With thy clear keen joyance  
Languor cannot be:  
Shadow of annoyance  
Never came near thee:  
Thou lovest; but ne'er knew love's sad satiety.

Waking or asleep  
Thou of death must deem  
Things more true and deep  
Than we mortals dream,  
Or how could thy notes flow in such a crystal stream?



We look before and after,  
 And pine for what is not:  
 Our sincerest laughter  
 With some pain is fraught;  
 Our sweetest songs are those that tell of saddest  
 thought.

Yet if we could scorn  
 Hate, and pride, and fear;  
 If we were things born  
 Not to shed a tear,  
 I know not how thy joy we ever should come near.

Better than all measures  
 Of delightful sound,  
 Better than all treasures  
 That in books are found,  
 Thy skill to poet were, thou scorner of the ground !

Teach me half the gladness  
 That thy brain must know,  
 Such harmonious madness  
 From my lips would flow  
 The world should listen then, as I am listening now !

### THE CLOUD

I bring fresh showers for the thirsting flowers,  
 From the seas and the streams ;  
 I bear light shade for the leaves when laid  
 In their noon-day dreams.

From my wings are shaken the dews that waken  
    The sweet birds every one,  
When rocked to rest on their mother's breast,  
    As she dances about the sun.  
I wield the flail of the lashing hail,  
    And whiten the green plains under.         10  
And then again I dissolve it in rain,  
    And laugh as I pass in thunder.

I sift the snow on the mountains below,  
    And their great pines groan aghast;  
And all the night 'tis my pillow white,  
    While I sleep in the arms of the blast  
Sublime on the towers of my skyey bowers,  
    Lightning my pilot sits;  
In a cavern under is fettered the thunder,  
    It struggles and howels at fits;         20  
Over earth and ocean, with gentle motion,  
    This pilot is guiding me,  
Lured by the love of the genii that move  
    In the depths of the purple sea;  
Over the rills, and the crags, and the hills,  
    Over the lakes and the plains,  
Wherever he dream, under mountain or stream,  
    The Spirit he loves remains:  
And I all the while bask in heaven's blue smile,  
    Whilst he is dissolving in rains.         30

The sanguine sunrise, with his meteor eyes,  
    And his burning plumes outspread,  
Leaps on the back of my sailing rack,  
    When the morning star shines dead;  
As on the jag on a mountain crag,



That orbed maiden with white fire laden,  
Whom mortals call the moon,  
Glides glimmering o'er my fleece-like floor,  
By the midnight breezes strewn;  
And wherever the beat of her unseen feet,  
Which only the angels hear,  
May have broken the woof of my tent's thin roof,  
The stars peep behind her and peer;  
And I laugh to see them whirl and flee,  
Like a swarm of golden bees,  
When I widen the rent in my wind-built tent,  
Till the calm rivers, lakes, and seas,  
Like strips of the sky fallen through me on high,  
Are each paved with the moon and these.

I bind the sun's throne with a burning zone,  
And the moon's with a girdle of pearl; 60  
The volcanoes are dim, and the stars reel and swim,  
When the whirlwinds my banner unfurl.  
From cape to cape, with a bridge-like shape,  
Over a torrent sea,  
Sunbeam-proof, I hang like a roof,—  
The mountains its columns be.

The triumphal arch through which I march  
With hurricane, fire and snow,  
When the powers of the air are chained to my chair,  
Is the million-coloured bow: 70  
The sphere-fire above its soft colours wove,  
While the moist earth was laughing below.

I am the daughter of Earth and Water,  
And the nursling of the Sky;  
I pass through the pores of the ocean and shores;  
I change, but I cannot die.  
For after the rain when with never a stain,  
The pavilion of Heaven is bare,  
And the winds and sunbeams with their convex  
gleams,  
Build up the blue dome of air, 80  
I silently laugh at my own cenotaph,  
And out of the caverns of rain,  
Like a child from the womb, like a ghost from  
the tomb,  
I arise and unbuild it again.

---

John Keats

### ODE TO AUTUMN

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,  
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;  
Conspiring with him how to load and bless  
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eaves  
run;



To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,  
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core ;  
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells  
With a sweet kernel ; to set budding more,  
And still more, later flowers for the bees,  
Until they think warm days will never cease, 10  
For Summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store ?  
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find  
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,  
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind ;  
Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,  
Drowsed with the fume of poppies, while thy hook  
Spares the next swath and all its twinéd flowers :  
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep  
Steady thy laden head across a brook ; 20  
Or by a cyder-press, with patient look,  
Thou watchest the last oozings, hours by hours.

Where are the songs of Spring? Ay, where are they ?  
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too,—  
While barréd clouds bloom the soft-dying day  
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue ;  
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn  
Among the river-sallows, borne aloft  
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies ;  
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn ; 30  
Hedge-crickets sing ; and now with treble soft  
The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft ;  
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.



Thomas Hood

### THE SONG OF THE SHIRT

With fingers weary and worn,  
With eyelids heavy and red,  
**A** Woman sat, in unwomanly rags,  
Plying her needle and thread—  
    Stitch! stitch! stitch!  
In poverty, hunger, and dirt,  
And still with a voice of dolorous pitch  
She sang the ' Song of the Shirt ! '

' Work! work! work!  
While the cock is crowing aloof!  
    And work—work—work,  
Till the stars shine through the roof!  
It's O! to be a slave  
    Along with the barbarous Turk,  
Where woman has never a soul to save,  
    If this is Christian work!

' Work—work—work  
Till the brain begins to swim;  
    Work—work—work  
Till the eyes are heavy and dim!  
Seam, and gusset, and band,  
    Band, and gusset, and seam,  
Till over the buttons I fall asleep,  
    And sew them on in a dream!

' O! Men with Sisters dear!  
O! Men! with Mothers and Wives



It is not linen you're wearing out,  
But human creatures' lives !  
    Stitch—stitch—stitch,  
    In poverty, hunger, and dirt,  
Sewing at once, with a double thread,  
    A Shroud as well as a Shirt.

‘ But why do I talk of Death ?  
    That Phantom of grisly bone,  
I hardly fear his terrible shape,  
    It seems so like my own—  
    It seems so like my own,  
    Because of the fasts I keep,  
‘ Oh ! God ! that bread should be so dear,  
    And flesh and blood so cheap !

‘ Work—work—work !  
    My labour never flags ;  
And what are its wages ? A bed of straw,  
    A crust of bread—and rags.  
That shatter'd roof,—and this naked floor—  
    A table—a broken chair—  
And a wall so blank, my shadow I thank  
    For sometimes falling there !

‘ Work—work—work !  
From weary chime to chime,  
    Work—work—work—  
As prisoners work for crime !  
    Band, and gusset, and seam,  
    Seam, and gusset, and band,  
Till the heart is sick, and the brain benumb'd,  
    As well as the weary hand.



' Work—work—work,  
In the dull December light,  
    And work—work—work,  
When the weather is warm and bright—  
While underneath the eaves  
    The brooding swallows cling  
As if to show me their sunny backs  
    And twit me with the spring.

' Oh ! but to breathe the breath  
Of the cowslip and primrose sweet—  
    With the sky above my head,  
And the grass beneath my feet,  
For only one short hour  
    To feel as I used to feel,  
Before I knew the woes of want  
    And the walk that costs a meal !

' Oh but for one short hour !  
    A respite however brief !  
No blessed leisure for Love or Hope,  
    But only time for Grief !  
A little weeping would ease my heart,  
    But in their briny bed  
My tears must stop, for every drop  
    Hinders needle and thread ! '

[Seam, and gusset, and band,  
Band, and gusset, and seam,  
    Work, work, work,  
Like the Engine that works by Steam !  
A mere machine of iron and wood  
    That toils for Mammon's sake—



Without a brain to ponder and craze  
Or a heart to feel—and break!]

With fingers weary and worn,  
With eyelids heavy and red,  
A Woman sate in unwomanly rags,  
Plying her needle and thread—  
    Stitch! stitch! stitch!  
    In poverty, hunger, and dirt,  
And still with a voice of dolorous pitch,  
Would that its tone could reach the Rich!—  
    She sang this ' Song of the Shirt ! '

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Lord Tennyson

SIR GALAHAD

My good blade carves the casques of men,  
My tough lance thrusteth sure,  
My strength is as the strength of ten,  
Because my heart is pure.  
The shattering trumpet shrilleth high,  
    The hard brands shiver on the steel,  
The splinter'd spear-shafts crack and fly,  
    The horse and rider reel :  
They reel, they roll in clanging lists,  
    And when the tide of combat stands,  
Perfume and flowers fall in showers,  
    That lightly rain from ladies' hands.



How sweet are looks that ladies bend  
On whom their favours fall !  
For them I battle till the end,  
To save from shame and thrall :  
But all my heart is drawn above,  
My knees are bow'd in crypt and shrine :  
I never felt the kiss of love,  
Nor maiden's hand in mine.

20

More bounteous aspects on me beam,  
Me mightier transports move and thrill ;  
So keep I fair thro' faith and prayer  
A virgin heart in work and will.

When down the stormy crescent goes,  
A light before me swims,  
Between dark stems the forest glows,  
I hear a noise of hymns :

Then by some secret shrine I ride ;  
I hear a voice but none are there ;  
The stalls are void, the doors are wide,  
The tapers burning fair.

30

Fair gleams the snowy altar-cloth,  
The silver vessels sparkle clean,  
The shrill bell rings, the censer swings,  
And solemn chaunts resound between.

Sometimes on lonely mountain-meres

I find a magic bark ;  
I leap on board : no helmsman steers :  
I float till all is dark.

40

A gentle sound, an awful light !  
Three angels bear the holy Grail :  
With folded feet, in stoles of white,  
On sleeping wings they sail.



Ah, blessed vision! blood of God!  
 My spirit beats her mortal bars,  
 As down dark tides the glory slides,  
 And star-like mingles with the stars.

When on my goodly charger borne  
 Thro' dreaming towns I go,                          50  
 The cock crows ere the Christmas morn,  
 The streets are dumb with snow.  
 The tempest crackles on the leads,  
 And, ringing, springs from brand and mail ;  
 But o'er the dark a glory spreads,  
 And gilds the driving hail. •  
 I leave the plain, I climb the height ;  
 No branchy thicket shelter yields ;  
 But blessed forms in whistling storms  
 Fly o'er waste fens and windy fields.                  60

A maiden night—to me is given  
 Such hope, I know not fear ;  
 I yearn to breathe the airs of heaven  
 That often meet me here.  
 I muse on joy that will not cease,  
 Pure spaces clothed in living beams,  
 Pure lilies of eternal peace,  
 Whose odours haunt my dreams ;  
 And, stricken by an angel's hand,  
 This mortal armour that I wear,                          70  
 This weight and size, this heart and eyes,  
 Are touch'd are turn'd to finest air.

The clouds are broken in the sky,  
 And thro' the mountain-walls  
 A rolling organ-harmony  
 Swells up, and shakes and falls.



Then move the trees, the copses nod,  
Wings flutter, voices hover clear:  
"O just and faithful knight of God!—  
Ride on! the prize is near."

80.

So pass I hostel, hall, and grange;  
By bridge and ford, by park and pale,  
All-arm'd I ride, whate'er betide,  
Until I find the holy Grail.

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## MORTE D'ARTHUR

So all day long the noise of battle roll'd  
Among the mountains by the winter sea;  
Until King Arthur's table, man by man,  
Had fall'n in Lyonesse about their Lord,  
King Arthur: then, because his wound was deep,  
The bold Sir Bedivere uplifted him,  
Sir Bedivere, the last of all his knights,  
And bore him to a chapel nigh the field,  
A broken chancel with a broken cross,  
That stood on a dark strait of barren land.  
On one side lay the Ocean, and on one  
Lay a great water, and the moon was full.

Then spake King Arthur to Sir Bedivere:  
"The sequel of to-day unsolders all  
The goodliest fellowship of famous knights  
Whereof this world holds record. Such a sleep...  
They sleep—the men I loved. I think that we  
Shall never more, at any future time,  
Delight our souls with talk of knightly deeds,  
Walking about the gardens and the halls  
Of Camelot, as in the days that were."



I perish by this people which I made,—  
 Tho' Merlin sware that I should come again  
 To rule once more—but let what will be, be,  
 I am so deeply smitten thro' the helm  
 That without help I cannot last till morn.  
 Thou therefore take my brand Excalibur,  
 Which was my pride: for thou rememberest how  
 In those old days, one summer noon, an arm  
 Rose up from out the bosom of the lake,  
 Clothed in white samite, mystic, wonderful,  
 Holding the sword—and how I row'd across  
 And took it, and have worn it, like a king:  
 And, wheresoever I am sung or told  
 In aftertime, this also shall be known:  
 But now delay not: take Excalibur,  
 And fling him far into the middle mere:  
 Watch what thou seëst, and lightly bring me word.'

To him replied the bold Sir Bedivere:  
 ' It is not meet, Sir King, to leave thee thus,  
 Aidless, alone, and smitten thro' the helm.  
 A little thing may harm a wounded man.  
 Yet I thy hest will all perform at full,  
 Watch what I see, and lightly bring thee word.'

So saying, from the ruin'd shrine he stept  
 And in the moon athwart the place of tombs.  
 Where lay the mighty bones of ancient men,  
 Old knights, and over them the sea-wind sang  
 Shrill, chill, with flakes of foam. He, stepping down  
 By zig-zag paths, and juts of pointed rock,  
 Came on the shining levels of the lake.

There drew he forth the brand Excalibur,  
 And o'er him, drawing it, the winter moon,  
 Brightening the skirts of a long cloud, ran forth  
 And sparkled keen with frost against the hilt:

For all the haft twinkled with diamond sparks,  
Myriads of topez-lights, and jacinth-work  
Of subtlest jewellery. He gazed so long  
That both his eyes were dazzled, as he stood,  
This way and that dividing the swift mind,  
In act to throw: but at the last it seem'd  
Better to leave Excalibur conceal'd  
There in the many-knotted waterflags,  
That whistled stiff and dry about the marge.  
So strode he back slow to the wounded King.

Then spake King Arthur to Sir Bedivere:  
' Hast thou perform'd my mission which I gave?  
What is it thou hast seen? or what hast heard?'  
And answer made the bold Sir Bedivere:  
' I heard the ripple washing in the reeds,  
And the wild water lapping on the crag.'

To whom replied King Arthur, faint and pale:  
' Thou hast betray'd thy nature and thy name,  
Not rendering true answer, as beseem'd  
Thy fēalty, nor like a noble knight:  
For surer sign had follow'd, either hand,  
Or voice, or else a motion of the mere.  
This is a shameful thing for men to lie.  
Yet now, I charge thee, quickly go again  
As thou art lief and dear, and do the thing  
I bad thee, watch, and lightly bring me word.'

Then went Sir Bedivere the second time  
Across the ridge, and paced beside the mere,  
Counting the dewy pebbles, fix'd in thought;  
But when he saw the wonder of the hilt,  
How curiously and strangely chased, he smote  
His palms together, and he cried aloud,

' And if indeed I cast the brand away,  
Surely a precious thing, one worthy note,



Should thus be lost for ever from the earth,  
 Which might have pleased the eyes of many men.  
 What good should follow this, if this were done?  
 What harm, undone? deep harm to disobey,  
 Seeing obedience is the bond of rule.  
 Were it well to obey then, if a king demand  
 An act unprofitable, against himself?  
 The King is sick, and knows not what he does,  
 What record, or what relic of my lord  
 Should be to aftertime, but empty breath  
 And rumours of a doubt? but were this kept,  
 Stored in some treasure-house of mighty kings,  
 Some one might show it at a joust of arms,  
 Saying, "King Arthur's sword, Excalibur,  
 Wrought by the lonely maiden of the Lake.  
 Nine years she wrought it, sitting in the deeps  
 Upon the hidden bases of the hills."  
 So might some old man speak in the aftertime  
 To all the people, winning reverence.  
 But now much honour and much fame were lost."

So spake he, clouded with his own conceit,  
 And hid Excalibur the second time,  
 And so strode back slow to the wounded King.

Then spoke King Arthur, breathing heavily:  
 "What is it thou hast seen? or what hast heard?"  
 And answer made the bold Sir Bedivere:  
 "I heard the water lapping on the crag,  
 And the long ripple washing in the reeds."

To whom replied King Arthur, much in wrath:  
 "Ah, miserable and unkind, untrue,  
 Unknightly, traitor-hearted! Woe is me!  
 Authority forgets a dying king,  
 Laid widow'd of the power in his eye  
 That bow'd the will. I see thee what thou art,



For thou, the latest-left of all my knights,  
In whom should meet the offices of all,  
Thou wouldst betray me for the precious hilt;  
Either from lust of gold, or like a girl  
Valuing the giddy pleasure of the eyes.  
Yet, for a man may fail in duty twice,  
And the third time may prosper, get thee hence:  
But, if thou spare to fling Excalibur,  
I will arise and slay thee with my hands.'

Then quickly rose Sir Bedivere, and ran,  
And, leaping down the ridges lightly, plunged  
Among the bulrush-beds, and clutch'd the sword,  
And strongly wheel'd and threw it. The great brand  
Made lightnings in the splendour of the moon,  
And flashing round and round, and whirl'd in an  
arch.

Shot like a streamer of the northern morn,  
Seen where the moving isles of winter shock  
By night, with noises of the northern sea.

So flash'd and fell the brand Excalibur:  
But ere he dipt the surface, rose an arm  
Clothed in white samite, mystic, wonderful,  
And caught him by the hilt, and brandish'd him  
Three times, and drew him under in the mere.  
And lightly went the other to the King.

Then spoke King Arthur, drawing thicker breath:  
Now see I by thine eyes that this is done.  
Speak out: what is it thou hast heard, or seen?'

And answer made the bold Sir Bedivere:  
‘ Sir King, I closed mine eyelids, lest the gems  
Should blind my purpose, for I never saw,  
Nor shall see, here or elsewhere, till I die,  
Not tho’ I live three lives of mortal men,  
So great a miracle as yonder hilt.



Then with both hands I flung him, wheeling him;  
But when I look'd again, behold an arm,  
Clothed in white samite, mystic, wonderful,  
That caught him by the hilt, and brandish'd him  
Three times, and drew him under in the mere.'

And answer made King Arthur, breathing hard :  
' My end draws nigh; 'tis time that I were gone.  
Make broad thy shoulders to receive my weight,  
And bear me to the margin; yet I fear  
My wound hath taken cold, and I shall die.'

So saying, from the pavement he half rose,  
Slowly, with pain, reclining on his arm,  
And looking wistfully with wide blue eyes  
As in a picture. Him Sir Bedivere  
Remorsefully regarded thro' his tears,  
And would have spoken, but he found not words,  
Then took with care, and kneeling on one knee,  
O'er both his shoulders drew the languid hands,  
And rising bore him thro' the place of tombs.

But, as he walk'd, King Arthur panted hard,  
Like one that feels a nightmare on his bed  
When all the house is mute. So sigh'd the King,  
Muttering and murmuring at his ear, ' Quick, quick!  
I fear it is too late, and I shall die.'

But the other swiftly strode from ridge to ridge,  
Clothed with his breath, and looking, as he walk'd,  
Larger than human on the frozen hills.

He heard the deep behind him, and a cry  
Before. His own thought drove him like a goad.  
Dry clash'd his harness in the icy caves  
And barren chasms, and all to left and right  
The bare black cliff clang'd round him, as he based  
His feet on juts of slippery crag that rang  
Sharp-smitten with the dint of armed heels—



And on a sudden, lo! the level lake,  
And the long glories of the winter moon.

Then saw they how there hove a dusky barge,  
Dark as a funeral scarf from stem to stern,  
Beneath them; and descending they were ware  
That all the decks were dense with stately forms  
Black-stoled, black-hooded, like a dream—by these  
Three Queens with crowns of gold—and from them rose  
A cry that shiver'd to the tingling stars,  
And, as it were one voice, an agony  
Of lamentation, like a wind, that shrills  
All night in a waste land, where no one comes,  
Or hath come, since the making of the world.

Then murmur'd Arthur, ' Place me in the barge,'  
And to the barge they came. There those three  
Queens

Put forth their hands, and took the King, and wept.  
But she, that rose the tallest of them all  
And fairest, laid his head upon her lap,  
And loosed the shatter'd casque, and chafed his hands,  
And call'd him by his name, complaining loud,  
And dropping bitter tears against his brow  
Striped with dark blood: for all his face was white  
And colourless, and like the wither'd moon  
Smote by the fresh beam of the springing east;  
And all his greaves and cuisses dash'd with drops  
Of onset; and the light and lustrous curls—  
That made his forehead like a rising sun  
High from the dais-throne—were parch'd with dust;  
Or, clotted into points and hanging loose,  
Mix'd with the knightly growth that fringed his lips  
So like a shatter'd column lay the King;  
Not like that Arthur who, with lance in rest,  
From spur to plume a star of tournament,



Shot thro' the lists at Camelot, and charged  
Before the eyes of ladies and of kings.

Then loudly cried the bold Sir Bedivere,  
' Ah! my Lord Arthur, whither shall I go?  
Where shall I hide my forehead and my eyes?  
For now I see the true old times are dead,  
When every morning brought a noble chance,  
And every chance brought out a noble knight.  
Such times have been not since the light that led  
The holy Elders with the gift of myrrh.  
But now the whole ROUND TABLE is dissolved  
Which was an image of the mighty world;  
And I, the last, go forth companionless,  
And the days darken round me, and the years,  
Among new men, strange faces, other minds.'

And slowly answered Arthur from the barge:  
' The old order changeth, yielding place to new,  
And God fulfils Himself in many ways,  
Lest one good custom should corrupt the world.  
Comfort thyself: what comfort is in me?  
I have lived my life, and that which I have done  
May He within Himself make pure! but thou,  
If thou shouldst never see my face again,  
Pray for my soul. More things are wrought by prayer  
Than this world dreams of. Wherefore, let thy voice  
Rise like a fountain for me night and day.  
For what are men better than sheep or goats  
That nourish a blind life within the brain,  
If, knowing God, they lift not hands of prayer  
Both for themselves and those who call them friend?  
For so the whole round earth is every way  
Bound by gold chains about the feet of God.  
But now farewell. I am going a long way  
With these thou seest—if indeed I go—

(For all my mind is clouded with a doubt)  
To the island-valley of Avilion;  
Where falls not hail, or rain, or any snow,  
Nor ever wind blows loudly; but it lies  
Deep-meadow'd, happy, fair with orchard-lawns  
And bowery hollows crown'd with summer sea,  
Where I will heal me of my grievous wound.'

So said he, and the barge with oar and sail  
Moved from the brink, like some full-breasted swan  
That, fluting a wild carol ere her death,  
Ruffles her pure cold plume, and takes the flood  
With swarthy webs. Long stood Sir Bedivere  
Revolving many memories, till the hull  
Look'd one black dot against the verge of dawn,  
And on the mere the wailing died away.

Here ended Hall, and our last light, that long  
Had wink'd and threaten'd darkness, flared and fell:  
At which the Parson, sent to sleep with sound,  
And waked with silence, grunted 'Good!' but we  
Sat rapt: it was the tone with which he read—  
Perhaps some modern touches here and there  
Redeem'd it from the charge of nothingness—  
Or else we loved the man and prized his work;  
I know not: but we sitting, as I said,  
The cock crew loud; as at that time of year  
The lusty bird takes every hour for dawn:  
Then Francis, muttering, like a man ill-used.

' There now—that's nothing! ' drew a little back,  
And drove his heel into the smoulder'd log,  
That sent a blast of sparkles up the flue:  
And so to bed; where yet in sleep I seem'd  
To sail with Arthur under looming shores,  
Point after point; till on to dawn, when dreams  
Begin to feel the truth and stir of day,



## 104 INTER. POETICAL SELECTIONS

To me, methought, who waited with a crowd,  
There came a bark that, blowing forward, bore  
King Arthur, like a modern gentleman  
Of stateliest port; and all the people cried,  
' Arthur is come again: he cannot die.'  
Then those that stood upon the hills behind  
Repeated—' Come again, and thrice as fair; '  
And, further inland, voices echoed—' Come  
With all good things, and war shall be no more.'  
At this a hundred bells began to peal,  
That with the sound I woke, and heard indeed  
The clear church-bells ring in the Christmas morn.

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### CROSSING THE BAR

Sunset and evening star,  
And one clear call for me!  
And may there be no moaning of the bar,  
When I put out to sea,

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,  
Too full for sound and foam,  
When that which drew from out the boundless deep  
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,  
And after that the dark!  
And may there be no sadness of farewell,  
When I embark;



For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place  
    The flood may bear me far,  
I hope to see my Pilot face to face  
    When I have crost the bar.

---

**Robert Browning**

**THE PATRIOT**

**AN OLD STORY**

**I**

It was roses, roses, all the way,  
    With myrtle mixed in my path like mad:  
The house-roofs seemed to heave and sway,  
    The church-spires flamed, such flags they had,  
A year ago on this very day!

**II** •

The air broke into a mist with bells,  
    The old walls rocked with the crowd and cries.  
Had I said, 'Good folk, mere noise repels—  
    But give me your sun from yonder skies!'  
They had answered, 'And afterward, what else?'

**III**

Alack, it was I who leaped at the sun  
    To give it my loving friends to keep!  
Nought man could do, have I left undone:  
    And you see my harvest, what I reap  
This very day, now a year is run.



106      INTER. POETICAL SELECTIONS

IV

There's nobody on the house-tops now—  
Just a palsied few at the windows set;  
For the best of the sight is, all allow,  
At the Shambles' Gate—or, better yet,  
By the very scaffold's foot, I trow.

V

I go in the rain, and, more than needs,  
A rope cuts both my wrists behind;  
And I think, by the feel, my forehead bleeds,  
For they fling, whoever has a mind,  
Stones at me for my year's misdeeds.

VI

Thus I entered, and thus I go!  
In triumphs, people have dropped down dead.  
Paid by the World, what dost thou owe  
Me?"—God might question: now instead,  
"Tis God shall repay: I am safer so.

---

Robert Bridges

LONDON SNOW

When men were all asleep the snow came flying,  
In large white flakes falling on the city brown,  
Stealthily and perpetually settling and loosely lying,  
Hushing the latest traffic of the drowsy town;



Deadening, muffling, stifling its murmurs failing;  
Lazily and incessantly floating down and down:

Silently sifting and veiling road, roof and railing;  
Hiding difference, making unevenness even,  
Into angles and crevices softly drifting and sailing.

All night it fell, and when full inches seven 10  
It lay in the depth of its uncompacted lightness,  
The clouds blew off from a high and frosty heaven;

And all woke earlier for the unaccustomed bright-  
ness

Of the winter dawning, the strange unheavenly glare:  
The eye marvelled—marvelled at the dazzling white-  
ness;

The ear hearkened to the stillness of the solemn air;  
No sound of wheel rumbling nor of foot falling,  
And the busy morning cries came thin and spare.

Then boys I heard, as they went to school, calling.  
They gathered up the crystal manna to freeze 20  
Their tongues with tasting, their hands with snow-  
balling;

Or rioted in a drift, plunging up to the knees;  
Or peering up from under the white-mossed wonder,  
"O look at the trees!" they cried, "O look at  
the trees!"

With lessened load a few carts creak and blunder,  
Following along the white deserted way,  
A country company long dispersed asunder:

When now already the sun, in pale display  
Standing by Paul's high dome, spread forth below  
His sparkling beams, and awoke the stir of the 80  
day.

For now doors open, and war is waged with the  
snow;



And trains of sombre men, past tale of number,  
Tread long brown paths, as toward their toil they go:

But even for them awhile no cares encumber  
Their minds diverted; the daily word is unspoken,  
The daily thoughts of labour and sorrow slumber  
At the sight of the beauty that greets them, for the  
charm they have broken.

---

Rudyard Kipling

" CITIES AND THRONES AND POWERS "

Cities and Thrones and Powers,  
Stand in Time's eye,  
Almost as long as flowers,  
Which daily die:  
But, as new buds put forth  
To glad new men,  
Out of the spent and unconsidered Earth,  
The Cities rise again.

This season's Daffodil,  
She never hears,  
What change, what chance, what chill,  
Cut down last year's;  
But with bold countenance,  
And knowledge small,  
Esteems her seven days' continuance,  
To be perpetual.



So Time that is o'er kind,  
    To all that be,  
Ordains us e'en as blind,  
    As bold as she:  
That in our very death,  
    And burial sure,  
Shadow to shadow, well persuaded, saith,  
    " See how our works endure!"

---

20

## Walter de la Mare

## ALL THAT'S PAST

Very old are the woods;  
    And the buds that break  
Out of the brier's boughs,  
    When March winds wake,  
So old with their beauty are—  
    Oh, no man knows  
Through what wild centuries  
    Roves back the rose.

Very old are the brooks;  
    And the rills that rise  
Where snow sleeps cold beneath  
    The azure skies  
Sing such a history  
    Of come and gone,  
Their every drop is as wise  
    As Solomon.

10



Very old are we men;  
Our dreams are tales  
Told in dim Eden  
By Eve's nightingales;  
We wake and whisper awhile,  
But, the day gone by,  
Silence and sleep like fields  
Of amaranth lie.

20

John Masefield

## A CONSECRATION

Not of the princes and prelates with periwigged  
charioteers  
Riding triumphantly laurelled to lap the fat of the  
years,—  
Rather the scorned—the rejected—the men hemmed  
in with the spears;

The men of the tattered battalion which fights till it  
dies,  
Dazed with the dust of the battle, the din and the  
cries,  
The men with the broken heads and the blood run-  
ning into their eyes.

Not the be-medalled Commander, beloved of the  
throne,  
Riding cock-horse to parade when the bugles are  
blown,  
But the lads who carried the koppie and cannot be  
known.



Not the ruler for me, but the ranker, the tramp of  
the road, 10  
The slave with the sack on his shoulders pricked  
on with the goad,  
The man with too weighty a burden, too weary a load.  
The sailor, the stoker of steamers, the man with  
the clout,  
The chantyman bent at the halliards putting a tune  
to the shout,  
The drowsy man at the wheel and the tired look-out.  
Others may sing of the wine and the wealth and the  
mirth,  
The portly presence of potentates goodly in girth;—  
Mine be the dirt and the dross, the dust and scum  
of the earth!

*Theirs* be the music, the colour, the glory, the gold;  
Mine be a handful of ashes, a mouthful of mould. 20  
Of the maimed, of the halt and the blind in the rain  
and the cold—  
Of these shall my songs be fashioned, my tales be  
told.

*Amen.*

---

Rupert Brooke

“ THESE HEARTS WERE WOVEN OF HUMAN  
JOYS AND CARES ”

These hearts were woven of human joys and cares,  
Washed marvellously with sorrow, swift to mirth.  
The years had given them kindness. Dawn was theirs,  
And sunset, and the colours of the earth.



These had seen movement, and heard music; known  
 Slumber and waking; loved; gone proudly  
 friended;  
 Felt the quick stir of wonder; sat alone;  
 Touched flowers and furs and cheeks. All this is  
 ended.  
 There are waters blown by changing winds to  
 laughter  
 And lit by the rich skies, all day. And after, 10  
 Frost, with a gesture, stays the waves that dance  
 And wandering loveliness. He leaves a white  
 Unbroken glory, a gathered radiance,  
 A width, a shining peace, under the night.

---

Wilfred Owen

ANTHEM FOR DOOMED YOUTH  
 1918

What passing-bells for these who die as cattle?  
 Only the monstrous anger of the guns.  
 Only the stuttering rifles' rapid rattle  
 Can patter out their hasty orisons.  
 No mockeries for them; no prayer nor bells,  
 Nor any voice of mourning save the choirs,—  
 The shrill, demented choirs of wailing shells;  
 And bugles calling for them from sad shires.

What candles may be held to speed them all?  
 Not in the hands of boys, but in their eyes 10  
 Shall shine the holy glimmer of good-byes.  
 The pallor of girls' brows shall be their pall;  
 Their flowers the tenderness of patient minds,  
 And each slow dusk a drawing-down of blinds.

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